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ARAB TIMES

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NO. 7193 THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 10-11, 1988 RAJAB 22-23, 1408 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILS

THE WORLD THIS MORNING

High-tech exports

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The United States has decided to expand high-technology exports to China after Beijing gave assurances it was not supplying Iran with anti-ship missiles, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said.

New AIDS cases

DAR ES SALAAM, (Reuters): Tanzanian health authorities have recorded more than 1,700 new cases of the disease AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in the past seven months, a senior health official said.

Soviet unrest

MOSCOW, (Reuters): A Soviet spokesman said yesterday the death toll in ethnic rioting in the Azerbaijan city of Sumgait — which Armenian eyewitnesses say was directed against their community — had risen to 32.

Teenager killed

MEXICO CITY, (Reuters): A Mexican teenager was killed when he was hit with a snowball concealing a large stone, the daily El Universal reported.

Accident

ISLAMABAD, (Kuna): Twelve passengers were killed and five others injured, two of them seriously, when a passenger bus fell into a ravine in Swat district of Northwest Frontier Province, Radio Pakistan reported.

Indian appeal

NEW DELHI, (UPI): India said yesterday it has asked the United States to drastically reduce military aid to Pakistan in view of the Soviet Union's statements that it wants to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

Peace efforts

CAIRO, (Reuters): Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Maguid briefed ambassadors of 15 Arab countries yesterday on talks last week with US Secretary of State George Shultz.

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Sports	19 & 20

آج کے اردو صفحات میں

- کویت میں پاکستان کے سفیر کا خصوصی انٹرویو
- پاکستان نے وفاقی اخراجات منجمد کر دیے
- جارج بوش کی ماحولیاتی مہم
- فلسطینی عسکرین سے امریکی مندوب کی ملاقات؟
- پاکستان کی سیاسی صورت حال پر اشرف شاہ کا تجزیہ
- فلم اور طلبہ کے صفحات

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with moderate northwesterly wind and clouds will increase gradually.
State of sea: Moderate.
High water: 3.00 am, 4.00 pm
Low water: 9.30 am, 10.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.04 am
Sunset: 5.53 pm
Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 25°C 77°F
Ahmad: 22°C 72°F
Palestine: 23°C 73°F
Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 21°C 70°F
Palestine: 19°C 66°F
Ahmad: 20°C 68°F
Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 13°C 55°F
Ahmad: 15°C 59°F
Palestine: 15°C 59°F
Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 83 per cent
Ahmad: 68 per cent
Palestine: 85 per cent
Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 75 per cent
Ahmad: 80 per cent
Palestine: 85 per cent

Move to halt war of cities

Iran welcomes Soviet proposal

NICOSIA, March 9, (Reuters): Iran's Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi today welcomed a Soviet proposal for a UN Security Council meeting to halt air and missile attacks on Iranian and Iraqi cities.

"The Soviet proposal is positive, and if the Security Council does not take a decision it would show their ill-intentions towards us," Mousavi told Tehran Radio.

Criticism

Hundreds of people have died since the war of the cities between Iraq and Iran flared up late last month.

Mousavi's remarks came as Iran appeared to tone down its criticism of Moscow over the origin of the Iraqi missiles.

Tehran last week accused Moscow of supplying missiles used by Iraq to attack Tehran and other cities, but some officials, including influential parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, later shifted the blame to Western powers.

Denied

Iran officially protested to the Soviet Union last week that the missiles fired by Baghdad in the bloodiest bombardment of Tehran since the Gulf war started in 1980 were Soviet-made.

Moscow denied the allegation, but a week of heightened anti-Soviet propaganda in Iran culminated in attacks on the Soviet embassy in Tehran by angry demonstrators on Sunday.

Walters denies meeting PLO leader

GENEVA, March 9, (Reuters): Vernon Walters, US Ambassador to the United Nations, today denied an American television report that he had a secret meeting with a senior leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Tunis last Saturday.

"It's absolute nonsense. I never saw anybody in Tunisia but Tunisians and Americans... no Palestinians," Walters told journalists when questioned about the CBS television network report.

Asked whether he had been approached by the PLO to hold talks, Walters replied: "I was not approached by them at any time while I was in Tunisia to speak to them."

"I deny it flatly," he added. "As you know, in the US you can't deny something if it happened or you're in the deepest trouble ever."

The CBS report quoted senior PLO officials as saying Walters had met PLO leader at a private home in a seaside town near Tunis on Saturday.

CBS said Walters met openly with Tunisian government officials but the details of his talks with the PLO leader remain a closely guarded secret.

The network cited PLO sources as saying they probably discussed how Palestinians could participate in any future peace talks.

Kill me if you can, says Jayewardene

COLOMBO, March 9, (Reuters): Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene, who has survived three attempts on his life, dared assassins to try a fourth time.

"I challenge them to kill me if they can," he said in a speech yesterday.

Jayewardene, 82, faces threats from Tamil rebels fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils, and from rightwing Sinhalese opposed to any concessions to Tamils.

He narrowly escaped death last August when a grenade was tossed into a party meeting in Parliament. He also survived attempts in 1958 and 1977.

Egyptian artifacts

CAIRO, March 9, (UPI): Egypt is seeking the immediate return of artifacts from the Tomb of Tutankhamun that were found hidden last fall in a British castle, a newspaper said today.

The semi-official newspaper Al Ahran said Culture Minister Farouk Hosni has urged the Egyptian ambassador in London to officially request the return of the objects which had gone to Britain without the government's permission.

This drew strong criticism from the Kremlin, which said the action against the embassy was inadmissible and behind it were "forces whom the current normalisation of Soviet-Iranian relations does not suit."

The Soviet Union acknowledged today that it had supplied missiles to Iraq but said the arms as sent did not have sufficient range to strike Tehran.

Sufficient

Senior government officials told a news conference in Moscow that any modernisation of the arms to extend their range would have contravened an accord between Moscow and Baghdad.

The officials had been questioned about Iranian charges that Iraq fired Soviet-made missiles at Tehran and other Iranian cities during an upsurge of strikes against population centres by the two countries over the past two weeks.

"Previously we delivered to Iraq a shipment of short-range missiles, but their range was not sufficient for reaching Tehran," said Vsevolod Oleandrov, head of the Foreign Ministry's department for international organisations.

Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said the missiles were supplied under conditions ruling out their modernisation.

"This means we have nothing to do with 'the war of the cities'," he said.

"We never gave permission to increase their range."

The officials declined to say when the missiles were delivered or whether Moscow, Baghdad's main arms supplier, was still shipping weapons to Iraq.

Oleandrov said the missiles were supplied under a military cooperation agreement between Moscow and Baghdad.

"We fulfil our obligations," he said.

He denounced attacks by both Iran and Iraq on civilian targets and added: "There are no measures which can ensure that missiles are delivered against military targets."

Algeria seeks Arab summit

TUNIS, March 9, (Reuters): Algeria has officially asked for an emergency Arab summit to be convened to discuss ways of backing a three-month Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories, Arab League officials said today.

An Algerian envoy presented the request yesterday to Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klihi in Tunis, they said.

Six other Arab League members have informally endorsed the demand for the special summit thus far: Tunisia, Sudan, Kuwait, Jordan, North Yemen, and the PLO.

Engine trouble

MONTEVIDEO, (UPI): A Royal Air Force Hercules plane transporting arms and explosives to the Falkland Islands developed engine trouble and made a forced landing in Uruguay yesterday after Brazil denied it permission to land, official sources said.

In the nearby village of Silwad, 15 miles (24 km) north of Jerusalem, protesters throwing rocks and bottles surrounded soldiers who battled back with tear gas and rubber bullets.

When the demonstrators did not retreat, a soldier fired a .22-calibre sniper rifle, and one youth was killed, an Army spokesman said. The Palestine Press Service identified the victim as Mohammed Faras, 18.

In the southern West Bank city of Sammu, soldiers shot and killed Bassam Al Badarain, 25, during a clash with protesters, the press service said. The Army had no immediate information on the incident.

In the Fara'a refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus, seven people were wounded in the feet and legs by Army gunfire when protesters surrounded a patrol during a violent demonstration, the Army said.

At least 91 Palestinians have been killed and hundreds wounded since the uprising began Dec 9.

The Turmus Aiyah village is next to Mazra'a Al Sharqiyyeh where Jews from a nearby settlement were implicated in the killing of a Palestinian yesterday.

The sources said at least nine Palestinians were taken to hospital.

The Blackhawk — the military's newest helicopter — has been plagued by design flaws.

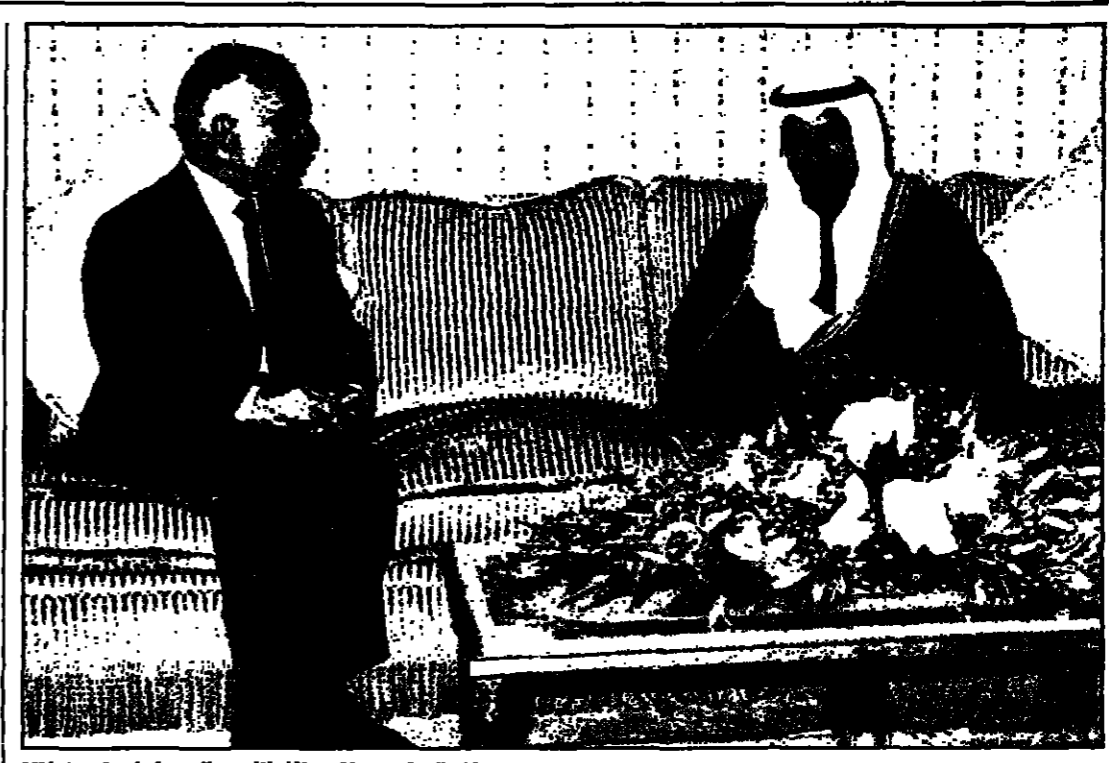
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HH the Amir in talks with King Hussein (left).

Hussein returns home after talks with Amir

AMMAN, March 9, (Reuters): King Hussein returned to Jordan today after discussing the Iran-Iraq war and the new US Middle East peace plan with Iraqi and Kuwaiti leaders.

The King, consulting Arab allies before replying to the peace plan unveiled by US Secretary of State George Shultz during a Middle East tour last week, had talks with HH the Amir of Kuwait today.

Proposals

The Kuwait News Agency said King Hussein's talks with HH the Amir and other top officials also covered the recent escalation of the Iran-Iraq war with missile strikes on Tehran and Baghdad.

Hussein met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad yesterday. Diplomatic sources said the

talks covered the Gulf war and Washington's peace proposals, which call for an international conference, an interim period of Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied lands and direct Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The United States has asked Jordan, Israel, Egypt and Syria to respond formally before Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir visits Washington from March 14 to 16.

King Hussein, a staunch backer of Iraq in the 7-1/2-year-old Gulf conflict, visited Baghdad as Iran and Iraq kept up deadly missile strikes on each other's cities.

He was accompanied by Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifai, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Armed Forces Commander Field Marshal Sherif Zin Shaker and senior court officials. Jordan's official Petra news agency said.

Earlier reports said only that there had been casualties. It was not clear if the dead were killed instantly or had died as a result of their injuries.

Escapes

Tass said the attempt took place during a flight by a TU-154 airliner on the Irkutsk-Kurgan-Leningrad route. It said the hijackers "aimed to escape abroad."

It did not say where the attempt took place or where the plane finally landed. It said an investigation had been started.

The TU-154, a standard Soviet medium-haul airliner, carries about 130 passengers.

The report indicated the flight started in Irkutsk, near Lake Baikal in Siberia, and headed west for Leningrad with a stopover in Kurgan, east of the Urals.

Analysts said the attempt was likely to have been made as the plane approached Leningrad, as this was the closest point on the route to the Soviet border.

Kabul rejects US demand

GENEVA, March 9, (Reuters): Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said today there was no question of agreeing to a US demand that Moscow cut off military supplies to Kabul as part of an agreement to secure a Soviet troop withdrawal.

Wakil, the chief Afghan delegate to UN talks on his country, also ruled out discussions in Geneva on the formation of a new government.

Pakistan and the Afghan guerrilla groups insist that a coalition replace the Soviet-backed Kabul regime.

"Afghanistan has always received the assistance of the Soviet Union and it will continue to receive it even after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops," Wakil told a news conference during the second week of indirect talks with Pakistan.

Issues

He indicated that the issues of cutting off supplies from Moscow and the formation of an interim government were leading to stalemate.

But he said he was willing to remain at the talks as long as it took to get an agreement, even past the March 15 deadline set by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Gorbachev said Soviet troops could begin withdrawing on May 15 if accord were reached by March 15 in Geneva.

All sides, however, appeared to be hardening their positions as the talks progressed.

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Several die in Soviet hijack bid

MOSCOW, March 9, (Reuters): A Soviet air stewardess and three passengers were killed when "armed criminals" tried to hijack an Aeroflot airliner on an internal flight, Tass reported today.

The official news agency said most of the hijackers were killed in the attempt yesterday and the remainder had been captured. It did not say how many hijackers had been involved.

"As a result of this terrorist act, a stewardess and three passengers were also killed. Other people were injured. They received medical assistance on the spot," Tass said.

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Uprising enters fourth month

Three shot dead on Martyrs' Day

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 9, (Agencies): Three Arabs were shot to death and at least seven wounded today on "Palestinian Martyrs' Day" called to mark the three-month anniversary of the Gaza Strip uprising in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Palestinian sources said.

Arab protesters clashed with Israeli soldiers and raised the Palestinian flag as the "intifadah," Arabic for uprising, entered its fourth month.

The West Bank and most of the Gaza Strip were paralysed by a general strike, and many workers did not go to their jobs inside Israel.

In the West Bank town of Turmus Aiyah, Jamil Hijazi, 19, was fatally shot, but it was not clear whether he was killed by soldiers or Jewish settlers, the Palestine Press Service said.

In the nearby village of Silwad, 15 miles (24 km) north of Jerusalem, protesters throwing rocks and bottles surrounded soldiers who battled back with tear gas and rubber bullets.

When the demonstrators did not retreat, a soldier fired a .22-calibre sniper rifle, and one youth was killed, an Army spokesman said. The Palestine Press Service identified the victim as Mohammed Faras, 18.

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Two more missiles hit Tehran

Seven Iranian cities bombed

BAGHDAD, March 9, (Agencies): Iraq fired two more missiles at Tehran today and launched a wave of air raids on seven other Iranian cities, the high command said.

A communique said that in a six-hour period the bombing runs caused "extensive damage" and started fires in Iran's western cities of Dezful, Sarpol-e Zahab, Ilam, Nahavand, Kermanshah and Hamadan and the northern city of Rasht.

It said targets included artillery positions as well as other military sites and economic installations.

Military spokesmen said Iraq fired two ground-to-ground missiles at Tehran in the evening.

They said an Iranian rocket hit a residential area of Baghdad earlier and an Iranian jet bombed the Arbad area in northern Iraq. Civilians were killed in both attacks, they said.

Iraq has now fired more than 50 missiles at Iranian cities, most of them aimed at Tehran, since the "war of the cities" erupted on Feb 27. Iran has fired about 30 at Iraqi population centres.

The Iraqi News Agency said Iranian artillery pounded several towns and cities, including Basra in the south today.

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INTERNATIONAL

Policemen patrol Lhasa

BEIJING, March 9, (Reuters): Thousands of heavily armed policemen patrolled the centre of Lhasa today to deter Tibetans from staging further anti-Chinese demonstrations, a Western witness said.

A convoy of 120 trucks, each carrying at least 20 men armed with submachine-guns, toured the city in a massive show of force, he said.

Speaking by telephone from Lhasa, the man said he had heard persistent reports from what he called reliable Tibetan sources that as many as 16 monks had been killed when the security forces stormed the Jokhang temple on Saturday to quell anti-Chinese protests.

Sure

"I'm sure it's true, absolutely sure. I'm so scared to be saying this," the Westerner told Reuters.

The foreigner, who insisted that he not be identified, said Tibetan monks had told him that soldiers as well as policemen had attacked the temple and run amok after a group of young monks broke up the final ceremony of a religious festival by chanting pre-independence slogans.

"It was the attack on the temple that made Tibetans in the rest of the city join the fighting," he said.

Injured

According to official Chinese reports, one policeman was killed when he was thrown from a window and 309 other members of the security forces were injured. Officials have not released civilian casualty figures from Saturday's clashes.

Foreigners returning to Beijing the day after the rioting said they had learned that up to nine people were killed, including three policemen.

Several thousand Tibetans joined in the rioting, attacking police and looting shops and restaurants.

Lhasa residents said the city was tense but quiet on the eve of tomorrow's anniversary of the start of a mass Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

"There are lots of police in the streets. I'm sorry I really can't talk to you," said another Western resident by telephone.

Democratic fight remains wide open after Super Tuesday

Bush trounces rivals in 16 of 17 primaries

WASHINGTON, March 9, (Agencies): Vice-President George Bush, fighting for political survival only a month ago, today had the Republican presidential nomination within reach and his opponents in disarray.

Ronald Reagan's loyal lieutenant trounced his rivals in 16 of 17 Super Tuesday Republican primaries — the biggest such test in US primary election history — and secured two thirds of the delegates needed for his party's presidential nomination next August.

Fragile
Bush seized the occasion winning Texas, Florida, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Maryland, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Rhode Island and taking out a narrow victory in Missouri over Dole.

On the Democratic side, Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis grabbed a fragile frontrunner status with big wins in Texas and Florida.

But rivals Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee and black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson also did well and still could overtake Dukakis, who has money and momentum on his side but only a slim margin in delegates.

Gore's victory in five states and Jackson's win in four, including such old segregationist strongholds as Mississippi and Virginia, cast a shadow over Dukakis's strong performance.

Bush was in no doubt as to what his sweeping victory meant. He told cheering supporters last night: "I am going to be the next President."

If nothing else, the 63-year-old Vice-President proved that in politics a month can make all the difference.

Needed

On February 8, Bush staggered to a third place finish in the Iowa caucuses behind Kansas Senator Robert Dole and former evangelist Pat Robertson and grave doubts were cast over his ability to win the nomination.

But Bush cloaked himself in Reagan's mantle and bounced

back, aided by his victory in the February 16 New Hampshire primary.

ABC News said Bush, who promises to continue the "Reagan revolution," won 599 delegates in Super Tuesday and now has 759 of the 1,139 delegates needed to win the nomination.

Dole has 222 and Robertson trails with 70.

Dukakis won 386 of the Democratic delegates at stake in Super Tuesday giving him a total of 465 with 2,082 needed to secure the party's nomination at its July convention.

But Gore won 367 delegates for a total of 378 and Jackson took 359 delegates for a total of 371.

The wide-open Democratic fight now turns to such northern industrial states as Illinois next week and Pennsylvania and New York next month.

Many Democratic political experts question whether any of the three main contenders will go into the convention with enough delegates to win a first ballot victory.

They talk of the contest being decided by the party's power brokers and if that happens, Jackson could emerge as a king-maker.

Agreed

Republican experts agreed that Bush has taken a major stride towards securing the nomination and could swiftly turn his party's race into a rout.

ABC said that Dole had to win 82 per cent of the delegates still to be decided in order to beat Bush.

"We are now in a setback stage," said former Secretary of State Alexander Haig who quit the Republican presidential race to campaign for Dole.

Dole himself admitted: "I took a bath" and Republican strategist Harley Barber said: "The race isn't over but Bush is so far down the road to nomination that it will take a 180-degree turn for Dole to get it."

Robertson, the right wing former television evangelist who pledged to win his native South, fared poorly and finished third in most primaries.

ABC news, however, said Robertson had won the small Washington state contest, the only blemish on Bush's Super Tuesday record.

Robertson credited Bush's victories to Reagan, who has not formally endorsed any candidate.

"I think I was running against the ghost of Ronald Reagan", he said.

Rewards

New York congressman Jack Kemp, the one-time darling of Republican conservatives, finished fourth and called a news conference for tomorrow at which he was expected to drop out.

Dukakis won Texas, Florida and his home state of Massachusetts, the top three rewards of the day from the standpoint of population, prestige and delegates they send to the Democratic convention. He also won Rhode Island, Idaho and Maryland.

But Jackson won at least four southern states and Gore at least five in a surprising show of strength.

to keep the Democratic race complex, interesting and undecided.

Southern Democrats planned Super Tuesday as the biggest one day series of primaries in American history.

They hoped it would give their region a major say in selecting a Democratic candidate but it appears to have achieved that only for the Republicans.

The real surprise on the Democratic side was Gore, a 39-year-old middle-road senator from Tennessee who virtually skipped the major Iowa and New Hampshire contests in hopes the south would ignite his candidacy.

The strategy, seen as suicidal by many analysts, paid off.

Bush's Super Tuesday triumph makes him the odds-makers' favourite to win the presidency, at odds of 4 to 9, bookmakers William Hill said today in London.

That means a nine-dollar bet on Bush wins four dollars plus the original stake.

Kim refuses to bow out

SEOUL, March 9, (Reuters): Efforts to piece together South Korea's splintered opposition political forces seemed to collapse today when Kim Dae-jung refused to relinquish control of his hard-line party.

Kim told a press conference he would reject the demand of the rival Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) that he step down as head of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) as a condition for a merger of opposition factions ahead of next month's parliamentary election.

"It is politically immoral and devoid of common sense for a political party to demand the resignation of another party president," Kim said.

Ambition
An RDP spokesman called Kim's decision "a betrayal of all democratic forces," adding that the veteran dissident should discard all personal ambition to help pave the way for opposition unity.

The PPD and the RDP, controlled by long-time rival Kim Young-sam, have been squabbling over strategy since before the Dec 16 presidential election,

when the two Kims failed to fix on a single opposition standard-bearer.

Their rival candidacies opened the way for the victory of government candidate Roh Tae-woo, the man they had both denounced as a carbon copy of former strongman President Chun Doo Hwan.

After their defeat, made all the more humiliating by the fact that they polled an aggregate 55 per cent, both Kims apologised to opposition supporters for failing to come together to end what they called "military dictatorship."

Appeal

Last month, in the face of continuing widespread criticism of their personal leadership methods, Kim Young-sam quit his party presidency and called on the other Kim to do likewise.

Rejecting the appeal today, Kim Dae-jung said the RDP had fallen into disarray without its chief and called on his rival to resume his post and work with him in the coming parliamentary elections to defeat Roh's Democratic Justice Party.

Catholics riot in Belfast

Troops unearth explosives

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, March 9, (Agencies): Troops unearthed a large cache of explosives in Northern Ireland as Roman Catholics angered by the slaying of three IRA guerrillas in Gibraltar rioted for a second night in Belfast, police said today.

A media officer at Belfast police headquarters said 1,600 pounds (725 kg) of explosives were found packed in plastic bags near a border customs post at the county down village of Killeen last night.

Buried

The explosives were buried beside the main Belfast-Dublin road. No group claimed responsibility, but security forces believe the Irish Republican Army planned to use them to blow up a passing security patrol.

Army bomb disposal experts removed the explosives, took

them into a nearby field and detonated them, leaving three large craters.

The road was closed to traffic overnight while the work was going on but was reopened early today.

Police said the explosives formed one of the biggest bombs ever found in the province.

The outlawed IRA is fighting to drive the British from Northern Ireland. The mainly Catholic guerrillas want to unite the predominantly Protestant province with the overwhelmingly Catholic Irish Republic under socialist rule.

Police have also found a large quantity of explosives in southern Spain, reinforcing the British government's stand that the Army killing of three Irish guerrillas averted a devastating bomb attack in Gibraltar.

Police found the explosives in a

Ford Fiesta car parked in the coastal resort of Marbella, about 50 km (30 miles) east of Gibraltar, last night.

Security forces in Gibraltar and along the neighbouring Spanish Costa del Sol had been searching since Sunday for explosives they believed the dead guerrillas had abandoned.

The British government welcomed the find of explosives, saying they were aimed at an attack which could have caused more than 100 deaths.

Spanish police sources said the five packets contained about 60 kg (130 pounds) of explosives, but a British Foreign Office spokesman spoke of a haul of 100 kg (220 pounds).

A Spanish Interior Ministry spokesman said the explosives were of the type used by the IRA, which is fighting to overthrow British rule in Northern Ireland.

Manila police capture rebel chief

MANILA, March 9, (AP): Police arrested a former regional commander of the communist rebel Army and three other people in a raid in the central Philippine city of Bacolod, the military said today.

The military also reported that troops killed the chief of a rebel propaganda unit and captured four other guerrillas in a clash yesterday in central Luzon's Nueva Ecija province. In a separate incident yesterday, troops killed a rebel liaison officer near the Mindanao city of Butuan, the military added.

Meanwhile, opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, a former Defence Minister, claimed the 19-year-old insurgency was worsening because of fragmentation within the 160,000-member armed forces.

Brig. Gen. Domingo Rio said Nemasio Demafiles, former commander of the New People's Army on Negros Island, was captured yesterday afternoon in a private home near the local headquarters of the Philippine Constabulary in Bacolod, 300 miles (480 kilometres) south of Manila.

Three others were arrested in the same raid, the military said. The raid came one day after Demafiles' bodyguard was arrested near Bacolod, a military report said.

Chief military spokesman Col. Oscar Florendo said Demafiles was believed to be a member of the central committee of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines.

In a report to constabulary headquarters in Manila, Rio said police found a .45-caliber pistol and a map of the constabulary office in Bacolod during the raid in which Demafiles was arrested.

The report said Demafiles apparently was planning an attack on the Bacolod headquarters.

In Manila, Enrile told the American Chamber of Commerce that disorganisation in the armed forces as well as a lack of supplies were hampering the anti-insurgency drive.

Dhaka poll workers detained: opposition

DHAKA, March 9, (AP): Opposition leaders today accused the government of arresting and harassing poll workers who refused to work during last week's violent parliamentary election.

Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia, who led the opposition boycott of the March 5 election, said numerous people had been arrested, but neither gave any numbers.

"If they are not released, the people will set them free," Mrs Zia said in a statement published by Dhaka newspapers.

Hasina, in a separate statement carried by the press, said President Hossain Mohammad Ershad's government had once again displayed its "autocratic nature."

Yesterday, newspapers in the capital said five persons had been arrested in the southern town of Barisal and 19 teachers in Dhaka had gone into hiding to evade arrest.

Clashes

Schoolteachers and government employees normally staff polling places during elections, but many who were slated for duty last week failed to show up — possibly out of fear for their safety.

At least 13 people were killed and more than 300 injured in election day clashes between supporters of rival parties. On Feb 10 more than 100 people were killed during non-partisan elections for local councils.



Kiesinger

Hasina's Awami League and Mrs Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party led a score of other parties in boycotting the parliamentary election. That left the field clear for Ershad's Jatiya Party, which faced only token opposition.

According to incomplete returns, the Jatiya Party has won 238 of Parliament's 300 seats. Small parties and independents took 41 seats.

Voting was postponed until Saturday in 20 constituencies because of violence. In another constituency, voting was delayed indefinitely after a candidate was killed in pre-election violence.

Action

Hasina, daughter of President Mujibur Rahman who was assassinated in 1975, and Mrs Zia, widow of President Ziaur Rahman who was assassinated in 1981, have led a 4-month-old campaign to topple Ershad.

Meanwhile, the state-operated news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha said the government had "initiated action" against those responsible for preventing a prominent opposition official from leaving the country.

The news agency did not say what this action was.

Former Foreign Minister Kamal Hossain, a member of the Awami League's president, was taken off an airplane yesterday when he tried to leave for Sydney, Australia.

Former German chancellor dies

BONN, March 9, (Reuters): Former West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger died of heart failure today, officials of his Christian Democratic Union (CDU) said. He was 83.

Kiesinger was West Germany's third post-war Chancellor, leading a grand coalition of CDU and Social Democrats from 1966 to 1969 despite a prolonged controversy over his role in Nazi Germany.

Kiesinger, who died in the University Hospital in the southern town of Tuebingen, always denied reports that he served as a liaison officer for Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels and Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop.

Government officials said his death came as a surprise to the family. Kiesinger had been convalescing well after a stomach operation late last year.

His period as chancellor was marked by the student protests of 1968, but also saw West Germany overcome a recession.

Don't desert Lebanon, ex-hostage urges charities

SIDON, March 9, (Reuters): A British charity official held for six days by Palestinian commandos called on aid organisations today not to desert Lebanon.

Peter Coleridge, 44, Middle East coordinator of the British relief agency Oxfam, was freed in Sidon yesterday by the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) of Abu Nidal along with colleague Omar Trabulsi, 31, of Syria.

"Oxfam and other charity groups should continue working and I hope that what happened will not affect the role of international groups in Lebanon," he told reporters.

"On the contrary they should continue working," he said after he and Trabulsi, Oxfam head in Lebanon, spent their first night of freedom at the Sidon home of local militia leader Mustapha Saad.

Asked when he would leave Sidon, he said: "When we finish what we have to do. He did not elaborate."

Walid Khaled, an official of the FRC, yesterday handed the pair to Saad, Sunni Muslim chief of the Popular Liberation Army militia that controls the South Lebanese port town.

Sources at Saad's home said Coleridge and Trabulsi would stay there until arrangements were made either to take them to the relative safety of Christian East Beirut or to fly Coleridge home from the capital's airport.

They said the two, seized on March 3 at the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al-Hilweh near Sidon, were due to meet officials of various relief groups before leaving Sidon.

Grabbed
Coleridge said the pair were grabbed after he took a series of photographs of Ain Al-Hilweh, a Palestinian base as well as home to thousands of civilians and a frequent target of Israeli air raids.

British embassy sources in East Beirut said they offered to help Coleridge leave the country but he said he wanted to fly out from Beirut.

The airport, situated in the kidnap-plagued West of the city, is normally avoided by Westerners who prefer to travel by ship to Cyprus from East Beirut.

The US State Department issued a strong warning yesterday against Americans travelling in Lebanon following a spate of kidnappings. A US Marine colonel with a UN observer force seized on February 17 is among 10 Americans missing.

'Tehran backs kidnappers'

PARIS, March 9, (Reuters): Lebanese President Amin Gemayel today accused Iran of backing kidnappers holding foreign hostages in Lebanon and suggested that France was playing into their hands.

Gemayel, who has said he knows where the hostages are being held, was asked in an interview with Radio France International who was holding three Frenchmen missing in Lebanon.

He replied: "Who's holding the hostages? The Iranians aren't hiding. Iran has voiced solidarity (with the kidnappers) several times."

He also said: "It's the French who are holding the hostages. You are giving (the kidnappers) a premium, amplifying the problem, by talking about it every day on the television. You have shown your enemies that you're vulnerable. You are pouring oil on the fire."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain, US veto

UNITED NATIONS, March 9, (Reuters): The United States and Britain yesterday vetoed a Security Council resolution calling for new, mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa after its recent crackdown on anti-apartheid groups.

The vote in the 15-nation council was 10 in favour and two against, with three abstentions.

France, West Germany and Japan abstained.

Bomb explodes

BEIJING, March 9, (AP): Three people in central China's Henan province were killed by the detonation of a 40-year-old bomb, the official China daily said today.

The report said Wei Shuangxi, a farmer living near Sammenxia City, found the bomb while digging for medical herbs last year.

On Feb 19, a boy playing at Wei's home set off the device when he cut off the end of the bomb, thinking the explosives inside could cure diseases, the newspaper said.

Italians freed

ROME, March 9, (Reuters): The last two of five Italian men who were held in Libyan jails were freed yesterday after Tripoli's decision to release all imprisoned foreigners, the foreign ministry said.

A spokesman said the fifth man, Sante Passerini, was freed in Benghazi. Another Italian was freed and three others on Monday.

Landing site

WASHINGTON, March 9, (AP): Construction has begun at an abandoned US strategic air command base near Ben Guerir, Morocco, to create an emergency landing site for space shuttles when they begin flying again, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said yesterday.

The former SAC Base has a 14,000 foot (4,200 metre) runway, but its surface must be rejuvenated to make it usable by shuttles if for some reason they fail to reach the speeds necessary to get into orbit.

Suicides

NEW DELHI, March 9, (Xinhua): More than 50,000 Indians commit suicide every year, according to a research paper presented at the 17th annual conference of the Indian Society of Criminology now going on in Trivandrum, south India.

The paper said Tamil Nadu state accounted for the highest number of suicide cases of 5,000.

It noted that out of every 1,000 people who ended their lives the world over every day, 100 were Indians.

Re-arrested

KUALA LUMPUR, March 9, (UPI): Leading dissident politician and lawyer Karpal Singh, freed from detention without trial today by the Ipoh High Court, was re-arrested hours later as he made his way home with his family.

A spokesman for the opposition Democratic Action Party (DAP) said Karpal, the party's deputy leader, had been arrested again under the internal security act and was being held at Penang police station.

US offer

WASHINGTON, March 9, (Reuters): The United States has offered Panamanians and their armed forces a promise of future economic and military assistance if they oust General Manuel Antonio Noriega and restore a civilian democracy.

After joining deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle in an economic war against Noriega that has forced banks to close and stirred even pensioners to street protests, Washington yesterday made clear that things could be different.

AIDS death

VIENNA, Austria, March 9, (AP): AIDS has claimed a fourth victim in Hungary and is spreading in Czechoslovakia, according to reports this week in both communist nations.

The Hungarian government daily Magyar Hirlap said today that eight people are seriously ill with AIDS in Hungary and "well over 150" people have been identified as suffering from the disease.

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Islamic countries urged to support uprising

Information Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Jaafar yesterday called on the Islamic nation to extend support to the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territories as it is an Islamic revolt.

In a speech, at the conclusion of the assembly's meeting yesterday Jaafar, said desecration of Al Quds shrine by the Zionist occupation constitutes a challenge to the Islamic nation.

Jaafar, who is chairman of the 8th general assembly for the Organisation of Arab Countries Broadcastings, affirmed that the continuation of the protracted Iraq-Iran war impedes joint Islamic work and disperses efforts in light of the difficult circumstances the nation is going through.

Prodding all Muslim countries to assist in ending the flaring Gulf war, he emphasised that the conflict has only resulted in des-

truction. Jaafar called on Iran to respond to peace calls and follow the Iraqi stance, indicating its willingness to end the war and acceptance of resolution 598.

It is an honour for Kuwait to host meetings of the Islamic Countries' Broadcastings Organisation, and chair the 5th session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), he noted.

Ratified

In their final session, the conference ratified a number of decisions, including decisions adopted by the 13th meeting for the executive council which was convened here on March 5.

The general assembly called on member countries in the organisation to pay their financial dues to the organisation, which was established in 1975.

According to requests from Iran and Indonesia, member ships of both countries were

abrogated, after ratification by the general assembly of the organisation.

Final accounts of 1987 were approved by the conferees who also commissioned the executive council to adopt a planning budget project for fiscal 1989.

General secretary of the organisation Ahmed Faraj was asked to continue serving in his current post until May 1989.

At the end of the meetings, attended by 40 delegations from Islamic countries, the conferees sent a cable of appreciation to HH the Amir of Kuwait who patronised inauguration ceremony of the organisation's deliberations.

A similar cable was sent to HH the Crown Prince and Premier, acting Premier and Foreign Minister and Information Minister who was deputised by the Amir to inaugurate the organisation's meetings.



Major General Al Khorafi (centre) is pictured with members of the Friends of the Police group from Abdul Rahman Ben Abu Baker School.

New rehabilitation scheme for prisoners

MAJOR Saeed Al Saeed, the acting director of the Jails Department at Kuwait's Interior Ministry, said the department is applying a new rehabilitation system at Kuwait's jails and prisons.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, Al Saeed said the rehabilitation system at Kuwait's jails attempts to qualify prisoners for jobs when they resume their position in the community.

Al Saeed explained that violations prior to 1962 were of a very simple nature with most of them due to default in payment of debts or failure to follow the teachings of Islam. But after the country's development, economically and socially, which increased the workforce, crimes increased and the nature of the crimes became more extreme.

Workshops

Al Saeed said there were several workshops available to prisoners which include carpentry, decorating, metal work, mechanics, printing, tailoring, pottery, agriculture among others.

He said prisoners were assigned to workshops by a committee made up of the head of the jail, a religious leader and rehabilitation officials.

A staff of vocational trainers.

Khorafi receives 'Friends of the Police' team

MEMBERS of "Friends of the Police" from Abdul Rahman Ben Abu Baker School visited the Undersecretary of Kuwait's Interior Ministry Major General Yusuf Bader Al Khorafi. The boys asked questions about the equipment used by police and the ways in which students could cooperate with the police.

Al Khorafi expressed his appreciation for the interest shown by the group and answered the students' questions.

15 accidents

FIFTEEN traffic accidents were reported in Kuwait yesterday, with eight in Jahra, three in Hawalli and two each in Ahmadi and the Capital.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received in audience the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed who introduced to the Amir Sheikh Ibrahim Dujaili Al Ibrahim Al Sabah board chairman and director general of the General Authority of Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries, on the occasion of his promotion.

The Amir received State Minister for Municipalities Affairs, Mohammed Al Rifai and members of the municipal committee and discussed with them means of facilitating services for citizens.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Arabs urged to end rifts

KUWAITI newspaper Al Rai Al Aam yesterday called on the Arabs and the Palestinians outside the occupied territories in particular, to solve their differences and end their rifts in the light of the uprising in the occupied lands.

In a front page editorial the paper said that the situation in the occupied areas after the uprising cannot tolerate splits and divisions. Instead it should be a unifying factor, the paper said.

Al Rai Al Aam said that moral support itself is not sufficient backing to the popular uprising, and the Palestinians have to solve their differences immediately as there are a number of factions which still act according to their geographical positions and not according to the reality on the ground.

The daily, in conclusion, urged the Arabs to consider the uprising one of their wars with Israel, and one that must unite them and brush aside past rows.

Seminar on nutrition

FOUZIYA Al Awadi, the director of the Nutrition Department of Kuwait's Health Ministry, said the department will hold its 5th seminar on clinical nutrition from March 12 to 19 at the Nursing School of Sabah Hospital.

The seminar, to be held under the patronage of Health Minister Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak, is planned to develop the

standards of the clinical nutrition staff and to modernise nutrition services at ministry hospitals, she said.

The seminar will feature a number of well-known British specialists and professors in addition to specialists from Kuwait and will be opened to the public on Monday March 14.

Meena Bazaar held



Bangladeshi ladies displaying handicrafts.

A festival cricket match and a Meena Bazaar were held last week at the EPI Ground in Sulaybiyah to mark the 18th Independence Day of Bangladesh.

The highlight of the day was the Meena Bazaar where Bangladeshi ladies sold homemade sweets and displayed handicrafts.

The other attraction was the cricket match played between the Bangladesh Green and Bangladesh Red teams. After an

exciting and tense game the Greens won the match. Kamruzzaman of the Greens team won the Man of the Match award. Masudul Islam and Mohammad Hossain were named the "best batsman" and "best bowler".

The event, organised by the Brothers Sporting Club, was opened by the Bangladesh Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin. The Lucky Draw prizes were presented by Bangladesh embassy Counsellor Mohsin Ali Khan.

Ministry holds interviews for teachers

THE Education Ministry has started conducting personal interviews with hundreds of candidates for leading administrative and supervisory posts in scores of new public schools that would open next year, according to a senior ministry official yesterday.

Assistant undersecretary for general education, Mrs Saud Al Rifae, said in a statement to Kuna that a total of 355 leading administrators and 820 experienced teachers have been summoned for the interviews which had started in mid-February and would continue through mid-March.

She pointed out that the interviews are being conducted by specialised committees in the framework of a new pioneering plan to select the most qualified individuals.

The official noted that 85 vice principals have been called for interviews to select a number of principals for kindergarten and elementary schools.

Educational opportunities munificent for Kuwaitis

By Keith Wells

IN an earlier article I spoke about the medical and housing benefits available to Kuwaitis and I said that the scale of these benefits make Kuwait the most generous state in the world. Before I go on to look at the educational aspects of Kuwait's social policy I think it would be a good idea to look at the more impersonal aspects of the Kuwaiti government's policy.

By this, I mean the enormous range of facilities which are available to everyone and for which no taxes are levied at all. For a start, the last decade has seen extraordinary growth in basic public facilities such as a superb motorway system, many brand new hospitals and clinics in every area, modern stadiums and beautifully equipped sports clubs, a National Museum, planetarium, schools, technical colleges and a university as well as Entertainment City and the host of other leisure amenities.

Expensive All of these things are provided at truly vast expense for the benefit of everyone. Kuwaitis and expatriates alike, directly from the government's oil and investment revenues. It is all too easy to take these things for granted, to just accept them as the natural order of things, but really, the fact that they are provided completely free of charge demonstrates the government's determination to spread the oil wealth as widely as possible.

To turn to education, government schools in Kuwait are free from kindergarten to university. Even expatriates who attend government schools only pay a sum of ten



Some of the graduates of Kuwait University.

dinars a year.

For Kuwaitis, the educational opportunities are quite simply munificent. If a Kuwaiti wants to study abroad for a master's degree or doctorate he can get a scholarship which will pay all of his fees. But that's not all, if he works for the government, the state will pay his salary in Kuwait and give him a second salary to live on abroad. He, or she, also gets free tickets to and from Kuwait every two years, and not only for himself, but also for his wife and children.

The Kuwaiti government will also pay for his wife to take a higher degree at the same time and also it will pay all school fees for the children. They even get special allowances to buy books or have their theses typed and printed. Even if a Kuwaiti wants to take his first degree abroad and doesn't qualify for the full scholarship he can get what is called 'study leave'. This has all of the benefits mentioned above with the only dif-

ference being that he only gets one salary instead of two, which isn't exactly a hardship by anyone's standards.

Naturally, this open-handed policy has led to a great many Kuwaitis to pursue their studies in Europe or the United States. In the past few years the number of Kuwaitis with PhD's has turned from a trickle into a stream that will soon become a flood as more and more young people take advantage of the state's generosity. This raising of educational standards will inevitably accelerate the policy of Kuwaitisation as nationals become more and more qualified to replace the foreign experts who have masterminded the transition from Kuwait's past to the future. By making it so rewarding to gain higher degrees and qualifications, the government has ensured that an increasing number of their nationals will be able to take over even the most technologically demanding jobs.

Before concluding this survey of The Generous State, we should also include the work of the Kuwait Fund. This State Agency exists for the sole purpose of helping less fortunate countries through a series of grants, soft loans and outright aid. Over the past decade or so it has given literally billions of dinars to countries all over the world. Naturally enough, less fortunate Arab states get first priority, followed by Muslim countries, but others are not excluded and places as far apart as Bhutan and West Africa have all benefited from the generosity of the Kuwait Fund.

It would be very easy for a wealthy and fortunate state like Kuwait to sit back and take no thought for others. That Kuwait refuses to do this, and accepts its responsibility to use its wealth for the benefit of as many people as possible is a clear example of an innate magnanimity of which every one in the country can be justifiably proud.

Construction projects

AHMAD Abdul Razzak Al Askar, the Chairman of the sub-committee for facilities and services of Kuwait Municipality said the committee had completed its coordinating activities between the ministries and other agencies involved in the construction of Amir Street, Souk Al Zil and the Sarrafen Square Projects.

In an interview with Seyassah newspaper, Al Askar said the committee had carefully reviewed the plans submitted by the project consultant after their endorsement by all relevant authorities to ensure that a minimum number of problems were faced upon construction of the projects.

The location has been surveyed, he added, and the project master plans carefully studied.

The committee will follow up on the project throughout the construction period.

Distribution of houses

FAREED Al Ajeel, the Assistant Director of Kuwait's National Housing Authority (NHA) for Distribution Affairs, said the NHA will distribute groups of government houses to citizens in south Rabia, Ouyoun and Jahra soon. Lots will also be distributed to citizens in south Rabia, Firdous, Qurain and west Fintas areas, he added.

Al Ajeel said distribution of government houses during the month of Ramadan will remain the same and requested citizens, who had submitted applications for government houses, to visit the NHA before April 8, 1988 to complete their formalities.

Dualj meets envoys

DIRECTOR General of Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources, Ibrahim Al Dualj, yesterday received Mauritanian Ambassador here Mohammad Abdul Kadar.

Authority sources told Kuna that Dualj discussed with his guest agricultural cooperation between Kuwait and Mauritania.

Dualj also received the Yugoslav ambassador Hassan Darwash during which they exchanged cordial talks and discussed agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

Dud cheques

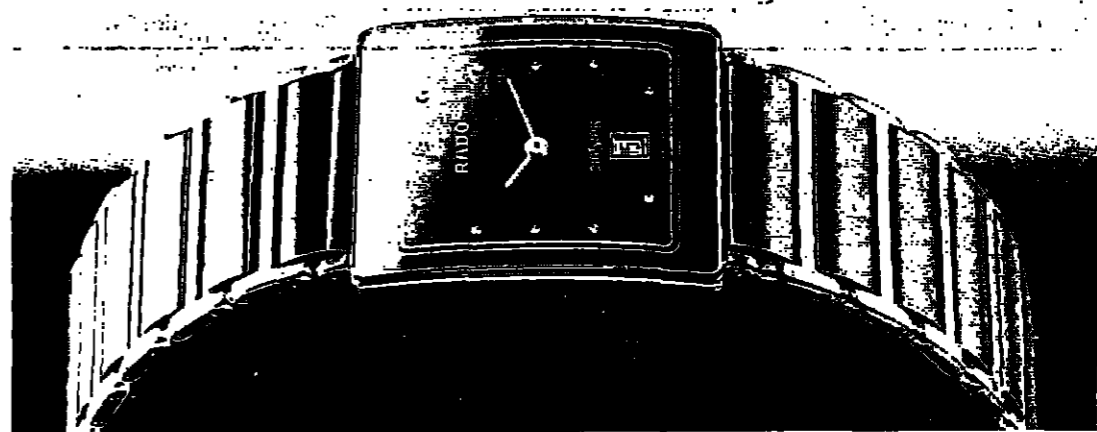
SIX dud cheques were issued in Kuwait on Tuesday the Sharq and Salmiya Police Stations reported.

One cheque, written for the amount of KD10,000, was issued by a Kuwaiti citizen identified as Abdusamad H. Three cheques were issued by a trading and contracting establishment totalling KD59,565 and two cheques for the amount of \$350,000 were issued by Mohammed M.

The cases have been referred to the prosecutor's office for investigation.

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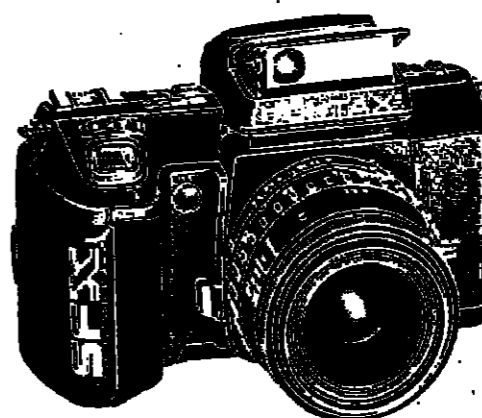


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Pakistan is neutral in Gulf war: Zahid Saeed

Time ripe for Afghan settlement

By Ashraf Shad

PAKISTAN has no intention of "getting into another mess" over the Afghan issue and believes the time is ripe for a settlement, according to Zahid Saeed, Pakistan's new Ambassador to Kuwait.

In an interview with Arab Times, Saeed said: "The time is ripe for an Afghan settlement and negotiations have reached a crucial stage."

Saeed, who was the Director General of the Pakistan Foreign Office, has been involved with the negotiations on the Afghan problem. He said his country has two "fundamental objectives." One is the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the second is the return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland.

Flexible
"We want to ensure, through negotiations, that the two basic objectives are achieved," he asserted.

Saeed admits it is difficult to "predict the outcome (of talks) in Geneva" but stressed that Pakistan is "flexible on the issue."

"We want some assurance and commitment on the issue of the



Zahid Saeed: closer ties

interim government as we cannot overlook this, and we don't want to get into another mess," he said.

Under the proposed agreement Afghan refugees would be given "reasonable time to go back."

Collective
"They (refugees) want to return but the war is keeping them away," he claims, adding that in some instances, due to the war in Afghanistan entire tribes migrated to Pakistan.

Commenting on the Iran-Iraq war he said Pakistan, along with members of the Islamic peace

committee, has backed a negotiated settlement and his country "is prepared" to join a collective peace initiative at the right time.

Saeed said: "It is unfortunate that peace efforts by mediators have failed to end the conflict between two Muslim countries."

Replying to a question on Pakistan's policy on the Gulf war, Saeed said: "Pakistan is neutral in this war and maintains normal trade relations with both the warring countries."

Brutality

He said Pakistan has railway

links with Iran. The railway line is used for trade in regular export items. Saeed emphasised: "There is no special agreement with Iran to provide another route or port facilities."

Denouncing Israel for its brutality and oppression against the Palestinian uprising, Saeed said Pakistan has always supported Arab causes.

Pakistan has close and friendly ties with Kuwait. Saeed quoted HH the Amir as saying that "relations are so good that it is difficult to make them better and that he would do his best to maintain them."

Saeed said his government has

asked him to work towards improving trade ties and balance trade between both countries. Imports from Kuwait to Pakistan, are worth nearly \$500 million. Exports from Pakistan to Kuwait are worth a mere \$50 million.

He said: "I want to increase export of Pakistani goods to Kuwait."

He said he would keep in "close touch" with the Pakistani community in Kuwait and will encourage and participate in all their "positive activities."

He said he is considering a proposal to set up a common council for Pakistani schools in Kuwait to keep the educational standard at par with the Islamabad Federal Educational Board. He said he will work toward closer links between parents and principals and teachers at the Pakistani schools.

Saeed, who presented his credentials to the Amir yesterday, is a barrister and an expert in international law. He joined the foreign service in 1966 as a legal expert and has since then represented Pakistan at the World Court. Before taking up his present position he was the ambassador of Pakistan to Senegal.



● HH the Amir received the credentials of Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait Abdul Wahid Bin Saoud at Self Palace yesterday.

Jassar arrives in Kuala Lumpur

KUALA LUMPUR, March 9. (Kuna): Kuwait's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khalid Al Jassar arrived at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang, 15 km from here today evening to witness the official opening of the new 160 million Malaysian dollar Selangor state mosque on Friday.

He is accompanied by the Kuwaiti director of Islamic Affairs Nader Al Nouri and Faisal Husain Al Ghattas, secretary to the Minister.

The Kuwaiti delegation will be among several hundreds foreign VIPs from Islamic countries who have been invited by the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah for the occasion.

Faisal told Kuna the minister was in Cairo for an international Islamic research conference before leaving for Malaysia.

While in Malaysia, the minister will call on the Malaysian Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Islamic Affairs) Dr. Yusof Noor. The Kuwaiti delegation will be in Malaysia for five days.

Beautiful

Other dignitaries who have arrived here for the ceremony are the Sultan of Brunei, Prince Hassan Talal of Jordan, the Deputy President of Muslim World League, Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdullah Al Aqel, Grand Imam of Al Azhar Mosque, Egypt, Sheikh Ismail Sadiq Al Adawy and Grand Imam of Al Aqsa Mosque, Jerusalem, Al Sheikh Mohamed Hussein Niari.

The Selangor state mosque situated at Shah Alam, 25 km from here is said to be the most beautiful in South-East Asia and one of the most beautiful in the world.

More than 30,000 people have been invited to witness the opening by the Sultan of Selangor.

Arrangements are being made by the state government to telecast the opening ceremony to Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Three new industrial areas to be completed

KUWAIT Municipality completed a project to establish three industrial areas in Shidadiya, Finaitees and south Amghara areas, the project director Nizar Al Anjiri said. He added that these areas were intended to provide a second source of income as well as an effort to achieve further self-sufficiency for the country.

Al Anjiri said the land in these areas, owned by the government, will be sold at the following rates: KD70,000 for each hectare used for light industries, KD50,000 for each hectare used for heavy industries and KD35,000 for each hectare used for storage

purposes.

He added that the Municipality had allocated 7,350 hectares in the Shidadiya area for light industries, 1,330 hectares in Finaitees for crafts and small industries, 2,980 in south Amghara for storage, 2,250 hectares for high-risk industries and 19,500 for heavy industries and storage.

The plans for these areas were made after the climate, traffic, car parking, public services and other factors were taken into consideration.

He explained that the Shidadiya industrial area was recommended for industries that are sensitive to pollution such as

foodstuffs, drugs, medical and scientific equipment. Industries involving the manufacturing of furniture, electrical appliances, shoes, clothes and paper products are also designated for this area.

Al Anjiri said the Finaitees industrial area is expected to include 19 hectares for industries specialising in the manufacturing of furniture, dairy products, car maintenance and bakeries.

South Amghara industrial area will cover 90 hectares and specialises in storage areas with an additional 42 hectares for explosives, poisonous and radioactive materials.

Soviet message for Sabah

KUWAIT'S acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday received a message from the Soviet Union's Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze.

The message was delivered to the foreign minister's office director Saoud Al Abdul Razzak by Soviet Ambassador Ernest Zverev.

Abdul Razzak told Kuna that Shevardnadze's message comes in the framework of 25 years of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and the Soviet Union and concerns the friendly ties that were built on respect and cooperation.

Mubarak telephones Qatar Amir

DOHA, March 9. (Kuna): The Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani last night received a phone call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The two Arab leaders discussed bilateral relations and latest Arab world developments in lights of Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab lands, the Qatari News Agency (QNA) reported.

Piano recital



RAMZI Yassa (above), a well-known pianist, will give a recital on March 15 at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel.

Yassa, who has won several awards, has performed in major European, Middle Eastern and Japanese cities. He performed in Kuwait in the summer of 1987 at a Gala Music Night. His repertoire ranges from Bach to Berg and includes works by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Ravel and Mozart.

Tickets for the concert are now available at the hotel.

REQUIRED

A laundry in Salmiyah seeks interested persons to work for it
Good conditions. Phone 5713310, Mohamed.

Omani coast under study for developing fish farms

LONDON, March 7. (LPS): A report recommending the best areas of the Omani coast for the development of fish and prawn farms is being prepared by Marengo of Portaferry, Northern Ireland, following a sampling of headland waters by marine biologists from the company.

Graham Savidge, a lecturer at Queen's University, Belfast, who is a director of Marengo, a company formed by marine biologists on the campus, is making a computer analysis of the results obtained from the recent study.

Survey

The Marengo team examined the upwelling phenomenon that occurs when winds from the southwest bring deep water to the surface to provide an abundance of nutrients and plankton for the fish which is not found in surface waters. Other factors examined were the topography of the sea bed, tidal and climatic changes and the feeding habits of the various fish varieties.

Mohammed Al Barwani, director of the Oman Fisheries Research Laboratory, recently

visited Marengo's headquarters at Portaferry where he saw the progress being made on the study.

Observers from several Gulf states accompanied the marine biologists when they carried out the survey in Oman and it is expected that further surveys will be requested by other Gulf states seeking to develop fisheries.

Dr Savidge explained that the information was sought as quickly as possible so that resources could be targeted into marine fish and prawn farms.

A spokesman for Marengo said links were being developed with other Gulf states and with Sudan.

Dry docks turnover increases

ABU DHABI, March 9. (Kuna): The Dubai Dry Docks has achieved a 46 per cent increase in its turnover for 1987 over the previous year, a drydocks report said.

In a review of progress for 1987 the dry docks said the fifth year of its operations had been completed on Feb 29 with "very satisfactory results."

Of these 126 vessels with a total deadweight of 12,700 million tonnes had entered the dockyard including 40 vessels of VLCC/ULCC size.

The report described overall capacity utilisation of the dry docks as "good" and said considerable investments were made during the year to upgrade the facilities.

The staff level increased from 798 to 855 by the end of February 1988, it said.

Post Office holiday working schedule

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Communications has announced the Post Office schedule for the Israa Al Miraj anniversary on Tuesday, March 15, as follows: The Postal Sorting Centre, General Post Office, Safat Post Office, Surface Mail Exchange Office, Transport Section and Muntaz-post Section will be open from 7.30 am to 7.30 pm.

The International Airport Post Office Terminal building No. 2 will have 24-hour service. All other Post Offices, Administrative Sections, Postal Parcel Delivery—Kaifan, Ahmadi will be closed during the holiday.

Fund for cultural promotion to support 35 projects

THE International Fund for the Promotion of Culture has decided to support 35 projects worldwide covering music, cultural heritage, theatre, talented youth, folklore and cultural industries.

The decision was contained in a declaration taken here Tuesday night at the end of two days of deliberations by the fund's general assembly, the president of the board of directors of the fund Dr Beshire Al Bakri told Kuna.

He said the participants also evaluated their activities during the preceding years and voted to take part in the 1988-1997 international decade for the development of culture.

The just concluded session of fund's general assembly in Kuwait derives its importance from the fact, it convened in a highly sensitive region of the world which is rich in cultural heritage, Dr Bakri said, adding

the Amir of Kuwait's invitation to the fund to keep to their decision-making independence and commit themselves to objectivity and repudiation of foreign influence took the fund to new horizons.

The general assembly renewed the term of office of Dr Bakri and elected deputies to the president from Holland, Bulgaria, South Korea and Venezuela. The Soviet Union attended the session as an observer and expressed a desire to cooperate with the fund in their projects.

The declaration appealed to all nations, governments and non-governmental organisations to cooperate in accomplishing the objectives of the coming cultural decade.

Cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) was underlined by the Kuwait declaration as enhancing

the efforts of the fund. Administrative council of the fund also, on Tuesday night concluded its meetings.

The council, which began its deliberations last Sunday, decided to support about 35 international projects for promoting culture.

The conferees called on "those who have conscientious" to stop the Iraq-Iran war which inflicts heavy damage on two of the world's civilisations.

The conferees extended a cable of gratitude to the Amir of Kuwait, acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Minister of Education and acting Higher Education Minister, Chairman of the Kuwaiti National Committee for Education and Sciences.

Accused of publishing leaflet

KUWAIT'S Court of Misdemeanours withheld sentencing of Mohammad Al Dallal, President of the National Union for Kuwaiti Students at the Kuwait University branch, accused of publishing leaflets against the university administration.

Al Dallal was released without bail for a six-month probationary period.

The union president issued the leaflets in October, 1987, without a licence from the Ministry of Information. The union accused the university administration of ignoring the demands of the students.

The Student Union has appealed the court's decision.

Right man should be put in right place: Ateeqi

THE director of Kuwait's Adan Health Area Dr Salah Al Ateeqi said the biggest obstacle facing the administrative reform measures was the leniency shown toward incompetence.

He added that administrative reform should work solely to put the right man in the right place. He said this can be realised only by the reform of senior officials and should involve all employees regardless of their positions.

Al Ateeqi recommended the application of the decentralisation system to avoid red tape and to achieve broader reforms, adding that senior officials must be given more power to carry out necessary reform measures.

Sabah meetings

ACTING Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed received yesterday Governor of Al Ahmadi, Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem and the general manager of the Lebanese publishing firm "Dar Al Sayyad", Bassam Firaiba.

Shaheen reviews agenda for Islamic foreign ministers meeting

ISLAMABAD, March 9. (Kuna): Visiting Kuwaiti Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen had a meeting this evening with Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo at the Prime Minister's house in Rawalpindi.

During the meeting, lasting half an hour, Shaheen conveyed to Premier Junejo a message of high esteem from Kuwaiti acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

The Kuwaiti Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs exchanged views with Junejo on bilateral matters and regional issues besides the main items of the agenda of the Islamic foreign ministers conference due to be held in Amman (Jordan) later this month.

Premier Junejo gave his highest consideration to the Kuwaiti leadership and appreciated their message. He was happy to note that the brotherly countries of

Kuwait and Pakistan shared their views about the Muslim Ummah.

Shaheen was accompanied by two members of his delegation besides Kuwaiti ambassador in Pakistan Qasem Omar Al Yagout.

Earlier in the morning, Shaheen held talks at the Pakistan Foreign Ministry with acting Foreign Secretary Bakhtiar Ali.

Appreciation

The talks, which lasted three hours covered bilateral matters and regional and international issues. Attention was especially focused on Middle East situation, Iran-Iraq war and the Afghanistan problem.

Shaheen told Kuna that his meeting with Premier Junejo and talks with Acting Foreign Secretary Bakhtiar Ali were both held in a brotherly manner and cordial and pleasant atmosphere.

"There was identity of views

between the two sides on all the issues discussed", Shaheen said and in this particularly mentioned the Palestine issue.

He said he conveyed Kuwait's appreciation for Pakistan's continued support for the Palestinian cause. The latest strong support of Pakistan for the current Palestinian uprising in West Bank and Gaza was also a source of great strength for the Arab world. Pakistan's stand on the Palestine problem was excellent, Shaheen told the Pakistani said.

At night, Acting Foreign Secretary Bakhtiar Ali hosted dinner in honour of Shaheen and members of his delegation. Tomorrow Shaheen is scheduled to call on President Zia Ul Haq when the latter returns from a flying visit to the United Arab Emirates.

Shaheen, who came here yesterday from New Delhi, is due to fly back from Karachi on Friday morning.

GCC ministers hold talks on communications

ABU DHABI, March 9. (Reuters): Communication ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) started talks today on unifying telecommunication systems and fees, officials said.

Ministers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the UAE are taking part in the day-long meeting.

Also in Abu Dhabi, GCC oil marketing chiefs were meeting to coordinate policies and explore new markets for their products.

Sheikh Nawaf meets envoys

DEFENCE Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed yesterday received separately ambassadors of the United Kingdom and Holland to Kuwait.

The two ambassadors congratulated Sheikh Nawaf on his new appointment as Minister of Defence.

Doha area lacks essential services

THE Mayor of Doha, Mohsen Al Muhailan, said the Doha area of Kuwait lacked many essential services and emphasised the need to build cooperative branches and repair roads and sanitary services in the area.

Al Muhailan said an overpass is also needed opposite the Jahra Governorate building leading to the cooperative society, clinic and mosque.

Beware of fake perfumes

PAYING genuine perfume prices for imitation is enough to motivate consumers to attempt to learn how to recognise the differences between the two, both of which are sold in Kuwait.

A low price for perfume is an indication that it is an imitation. Shop owners say they sell genuine perfume at lower prices because they have lower overhead costs and are satisfied with lower profits. And since it is difficult to tell the difference between the imitation perfume and the genuine the consumer is an easy victim.

Code number

A perfume shop owner said there are things to look for when buying perfume. He said imitation perfumes have a weaker fragrance than genuine perfume, tend to have a yellowish colour and have air bubbles when shaken.

He said that some perfume companies place a specific com-

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EVENTS



Table Talk

BY DINAH

FOR the numerous bachelors in Kuwait and for married men here without their families, eating out is almost a necessary luxury. No matter if your salary is less than KD100 or more than KD1,000, there are restaurants in Kuwait where everyone can afford to treat themselves. If you are not particular about comfort or surroundings, it is possible to eat a nutritious meal for less than a dinar, but if you want to pamper yourself you can pay over ten. This week we ate well, but economically, at two very different kinds of restaurants in town.

Three-course lunch

The Coffee Shop of the Sheraton Hotel offers one of the cheapest lunch buffets in Kuwait at KD4 per head including drinks. Compared with the gargantuan spread served in the Al Hamra restaurant of the same hotel (for KD 5.500 excluding drinks), the coffee shop buffet is a very modest affair. There is a small range of salads, including four or five mezzeh dishes, salads of mortadella, cheese, sausages, sweetcorn and red cabbage. The most interesting combination was red and green lettuce with fresh mushrooms and there was a tasty fish salad in thousand island dressing. The main course dishes were adequate but uninspired. The most sumptuous was fillets of

Fair bill of fare

hamour with Gulf prawns; there was an unusual chicken and lychees curry, lamb and vegetable stew or lasagne. To accompany these one could choose rice with green and red peppers, cauliflower cheese and samboosa.

The desserts had improved since our last visit to the hotel and included a selection of petit fours, miniature fruit tarts, Ataf and nut-filled pastries as well as old standards such as Black Forest Cherry Cake and mullababia. I tried one of the individual glasses of mousse which contained a light, strawberry confection topped with syrup and a fresh strawberry. There was an interesting gâteau of swiss roll slices and vanilla cream and a delightful meringue cake filled with mousse.

With comfortable tapestry-covered bench-seating, carpeted floor and soothing piped music, the Sheraton is a quiet and relaxing place to spend the lunch break. Carved screens and mirrored pillars provide private corners and you can look out either onto the pool or the busy city street, as you sit back and enjoy first class service.

RESTAURANT: Sheraton

TYPE: Coffee Shop

MEAL: Three course lunch buffet

PRICE: KD 8 (for two)

Star rating (out of five):

FOOD: ****

SERVICE: ****

ATMOSPHERE: ****

VALUE FOR MONEY: *****

Lunch for two

The King's Palace Restaurant near Abdullah Mubarak Mosque in Murgab is of a very different standard from the places normally reviewed in this column, but it demonstrates how cheaply you can eat in Kuwait if you don't mind very spartan and garish

surroundings. In fact this cafe has the appearance of public baths converted into an eatery by an unskilled do-it-yourself enthusiast, adorned as it is with ceramic tiles in various patterns, numerous wash-hand basins, and an elaborately visible plumbing system. People over 5'8" are advised not to eat in the upstairs family section unless they're trying to lose a few inches. All of this is unimportant, however, as once the food arrives the surroundings are quickly forgotten.

Both the Peas Pilau (400 fils) and Mutton Biriani (600 fils) would have made a meal in themselves, consisting of the lightest Basmati rice delicately seasoned with saffron, cardamom, spices and springs of coriander. The prawns reheated, a spicy dish of prawns cooked in a chilli-based paste, was excellent value for KD 1.300. The chicken moglai at 750 fils consisted of two chicken legs cooked in a rich and subtle coconut sauce. In addition we ordered a large plate of salad for 200 fils and two Bhatura — the tastiest bread I've ever eaten — huge balloons of rich fried batter at 100 fils each. All of this and a Pepsi totalled only KD3.500. The service was rapid (the waiter even apologised that the prawn dish would take three or four minutes!) This was fast food at its best — nutritious, fresh ingredients skillfully cooked to perfection in the minimum of time. Why buy hamburgers and pizzas loaded with preservatives when you can eat like a king for much less?

RESTAURANT: King's

Palace

TYPE: Indian

MEAL: Main course dishes

PRICE: KD 3.500 (for two)

Star rating (out of five):

FOOD: ****

SERVICE: ****

ATMOSPHERE: Zero!

VALUE FOR MONEY: *****

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Cartoons
- 10.00 Fi Rihaab Tarbiya: an educational programme presented by Jassim Al Ghareib.
- 11.00 Songs
- 11.30 Islam Wal Insaan: religious programme, hosted by Dr Abdul Suboor Al Shahin.
- 12.00 Ma Da'a Wa Anhamu Min Akhbar Jahan: Arabic serial, starring Sheza Salem, Khalil Rifai, Mohammad Hussain Abdul Rahim.
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.20 World News via Satellite
- 2.00 Liqa Al Khamis: roundup of local events
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Mu'Laeb: cartoons
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.15 The Saint: Roger Moore plays the debonair detective, Simon Templar.
- 5.25 Maktabat Ala Wa Hina: children's programme
- 6.00 Alwan: presented by

- Rolah Farah
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 Show Jumping, presented by Ali Hamdi
- 7.30 Mafhoum Ayesh Farhan: Arabic serial. Starring: Sayeda Kawari, Basma Hamada, Huda Hamada, Hilal Mohammad.
- 8.30 With Islam: hosted by Dr Khalid Al Madhkour
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 10.00 From People's Art
- 10.30 Tubool Fi Al Lail: Arabic feature film starring Hatem Zulfikar, Imaan, Mohammad Al Heu, Widad Hamdi, Hussein Sharbini.
- 12.00 Late Night Variety Show: hosted by Amina Al Sharruh.
- 1.30 News Summary
- 1.35 World News via Satellite
- 2.05 Holy Quran Close down

FRIDAY

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.30 Hikayat Min Al Alam: Stories From Around the World.
- 10.00 News Summary
- 10.05 World News via Satellite



Tonight's Arabic feature film is Tubool Fi Al Lail featuring Hatem Zulfikar and Imaan, 10.30 pm, KTV 1.

- 10.20 Children's Magazine: a programme for young viewers.
- 11.00 Prophet's Saying: religious programme, presented by Dr Ahmad Abul Noor.
- 11.15 Friday Prayer
- 12.15 Min Wahi Al Ayaat Al Bayanat: religious serial.
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.20 World News via Satellite
- 2.00 INTERVAL
- 2.30 Preview of next week's programme on KTV
- 3.15 Hadith Deeni: religious talk by Sheikh Mohammad Murwali Sharawi.
- 4.00 Hub Al Afyah: Arabic play featuring Hala Fakher, Wahid Saif, Saeed Abdul Ghani. Comedy. It revolves around a man who places a matrimonial advertisement in the paper.
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.15 Kul al Funoon: hosted by Rasha Magdi.
- 7.55 Weekly Discussion: a local talk show
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 10.00 Wrestling
- 10.45 Man Ta'akul Al Nar: Iraqi serial, starring Mahmoud Abul Abbas, Hudail Kamel, Sana Abdul Rahman. Social. Directed by Salah Karam.
- 12.00 News Summary
- 12.05 World News via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 3.30 Holy Quran
- 3.36 Cartoons



Ken Wahl, Jonathan Banks and Ray Sharkey in 'A Woman Called Felicia'.

- 10.30 pm on Friday, KTV 2
- 3.55 Football match: UAE vs Iraq
- 5.55 Match: Oman vs Qatar
- 8.00 News
- 8.40 Circus
- 9.05 Spenser for Hire: "Windows Walk." A young pregnant girl is in trouble. Spenser helps her. Starring: Robert Ulrich.
- 10.00 Bill Cosby Show: "A Girl And Her Dog." Cliff is not a very happy man while his wife attends a meeting in Washington. On the home front he has to tackle tricky issues like the case of Rudy's stray dog.
- 10.30 Late Night Movie: "New Blood." Sonny faces pressure from competitors and Vinnie convinces the authorities that Sonny is innocent.
- 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

Delightful comedy

Preview of Vicar of Wakefield

By Keith Wells

THE Kuwait Little Theatre in Ahmad are following on the heels of ACT by presenting something out of the ordinary so far as local amateur dramatics is concerned.

From Monday to Thursday next week they will be performing "The Vicar of Wakefield," by Oliver Goldsmith, dramatised by Caswell Garth and directed by Clive Jaques.

The play is a delightful comedy of manners set in an eighteenth century vicarage and features the strongest cast seen in Kuwait for some years. Clive is one of the finest actors to appear on the Kuwait stage and has just returned to the country after two years in Saudi Arabia and Oman. He takes the title role and is superbly matched by Maureen Wringe who plays the vicar's wife with exquisite delicacy and comic timing.

Action

Clive was eager to explain that people should not be put off just because it's a period piece. He said, "It is still very funny," a judgement with which I totally agree. On Monday I watched rehearsals for the first two



(L to R): Maureen Wringe, Clive Jaques, Norma Williams, Stephen Morris, Elaine Perkins and Terri Batley in KLT's production of 'The Vicar of Wakefield.'

acts and enjoyed myself tremendously. The acting is first class, a long way above the usual standards of amateur theatre. The set and the costumes are superbly recreating the eighteenth century vicarage where the action takes place.

I won't give away the plot, but at one point the vicar's wife says to her daughter: "Appearances are all that

matter in the world of fashion". The plot turns upon the realisation of the cruel and ironic accuracy of this remark. However, all turns out well in the end leaving all the characters a little wiser and the audience much entertained.

Tickets are still available for all performances and this really is a production that should not be missed.

• All entries for the What's On column must be handed over personally to Events Section, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus
- Al Marsat Wal Kanoon (Arabic)
- Starring: Shirin, Farouk Fishawi, Majeda
- Al Sahniya
- Jumping Jack Flash
- Starring: Whoopi Goldberg
- Al Hamra
- The Highest Honour
- Starring: John Howard
- Drive-In
- Al Rajul Yahub Marratani (Arabic)
- Al Firdous
- Dilruba Tangewali (Hindi)
- Starring: Hemant Birje, Sriprada Krishna, Deva, Pran
- Fahaeel Open-Air
- Kudrat Ka Kanoon (Hindi)
- Al Fahaeel
- Johnny (Bengali)
- Al Jahra
- Fatimat Al Sahara (Arabic)
- Granada
- Shahenshah (Hindi)
- Sulabikhat
- Idanazhiyl Oru Kalocha (Malayalam)
- Al Jleeb
- Chacha Bhatija (Hindi)
- Ahmad Drive-In
- Al Mal'oub (Arabic)
- Starring: Mahmood Yassin, Imaan
- FRIDAY
- The Living Daylights
- Starring: Timothy Dalton
- Sulabikhat
- The Aviator
- Al Jleeb
- Jeene Ki Aarzoo (Hindi)

PRAYERS

- Fajr 4.44 am
- Zuhr 11.58
- Asr 3.21 pm
- Maghreb 5.54
- Isha 7.10
- FRIDAY
- Fajr 4.43
- Friday Prayer 11.58
- Asr 3.22 pm
- Maghreb 5.55
- Isha 7.11

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
- Al Mutawa Pharmacy
- Awqaf Bldg., Hilali St.
- Baghdad Pharmacy
- Abdullah Al Salem St.
- Hawalli and Nagra
- Al Firdous Pharmacy
- Opp. Hawalli Police Stn.
- Beirut St.
- Sahniya and Rumaithiya
- Al Hiba Pharmacy
- Salem Al Mubarak St.
- Fahaeel and Ahmad
- Al Sheba Pharmacy
- Late Sheikh Ahmad Al Jaber Bldg., F'heel
- Jleeb Al Shiyyookh
- Al Hassawi Pharmacy
- Block 2, Main St.
- Jahra
- Al Noor Pharmacy
- Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.
- Al Istiqal Pharmacy
- Safat Square
- Al Amal Pharmacy
- Commercial Market, Mubarak Al Kabir St.
- Hawalli and Nagra
- Al Khayyam Pharmacy
- Beirut St.
- Sahniya and Rumaithiya
- Randa Pharmacy
- Salem Al Mubarak St.
- Fahaeel and Ahmad
- Al Ahmad Pharmacy
- Raj' an Commercial Centre, South St.
- Riqqai
- Al Riqqai Pharmacy
- Bldg. No. 12, Riqqai
- Jahra
- Al Zahra Pharmacy
- New Market

WHAT'S ON

THEATRE

ACT

Tonight is the last performance of ACT's "An Evening of Absurdity" 8 pm, at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School. The evening consists of two absurdly comic one-act plays, The Bald Soprano by Eugene Ionesco and The Eugene Dream by Edward Albee. For reservations ring 5639204; 5620332; 5725071.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KLT will perform the Vicar of Wakefield, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith. Gala opening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeat performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 3983724.

Rock 'n' Romance

Kuwait Players present Rock 'n' Romance, a rock show with a romantic touch, directed by June Stevenson and Phil Thomas, featuring music by Eric Clapton, Dire Straits, Elton John, Chopin and others. It will be held at the Regency Palace Hotel at 8 pm on March 20, 21, 22, 23 and at 3 pm and 8 pm on March 24. For details call 5624175, after 2 pm, or 5745838.

SOCIAL

Contact

The next meeting of the ladies information group, Contact, will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 10 am at the SAS Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details phone 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

Daniella

The '88 Revue will be performed at the Gazelle Club on March 17 at 7.30 pm. It is the major family event of the year. Don't leave children at home. For reservations contact Connie — 3947693; Annette — 3903480 before March 15.

Luncheon Party

Friends of Great Ormond Street Hospital Lunch will be held on March 17, 1.30 pm, at Messilah Beach Hotel. For reservations contact 4831339; 5636675.

Kuwait Irish Society

St Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact — 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or — 624175 after 2 pm.

Weekend Club

The Weekend Club will hold "Summer Queen '88" contest on the first day of Eid Al Fitr at the Regency Palace Hotel. Music will be provided by two local bands and singer Adolf.

SPORTS

German Sport

Stammisch

The latest weekly German sports round-up shown on video every Tuesday at 7.30 pm at the Ramada Al Salem Hotel. Free entry. For details contact Bernhard Ilming — 4835344.

Cricket Match

The BA Speedbird Trophy Cricket match between teams representing Great Britain and India will take place on March 15 at the KOC, Ahmad, New Ground. Play commences at 9.30 am. All are welcome.

Sports Festival for Children

A sports festival for Bangladeshi children will be held on April 8. For details contact 4840759. All Bangladeshi children are welcome.

CINEMA

British Council

Little Lord Fauntleroy is the title of this month's film for children. It is a heart-warming story of eight year old Ceddie, whose happy life with his widowed American mother is trans-

FORMED

formed when he becomes Little Lord Fauntleroy. It will be shown on March 16, 6 pm and March 17, 10.30 am.

This month's feature film for adults is entitled The Emerald Forest. The production by John Boorman is the mystical story of a young white boy spirited away by a tribe and then initiated into manhood and full membership. Elements of magic, fantasy, myth and anthropological fact are introduced in this story. This film will be shown at 6.30 pm on March 19 and 20.

Admission free but it is advisable to make reservations.

Tel: 2515512.

HOTELS

At the Meridien

Tonight enjoy typical Oriental food in the La Brasserie Restaurant. On Friday, there is family fun in the same restaurant from 12 noon to 4 pm. Extensive Oriental buffet with musical entertainment, playground with cartoons, toys and video games and entertainment by Bugs Bunny and Donald Duck.

At the Hilton

Start your Friday with the extensive brunch buffet featuring a wide selection of American food at the La Palma Restaurant. Authentic jazz

blues played by the Magnetic Band Quartet.

At the Sheraton

Yum Yum America: flavourful traditional American dishes such as steaks, Alaskan king crab, oysters, chicken Maryland and a selection of desserts including pumpkin pie are offered in the Hunt Room, Coffee Shop and Gourmet Shop.

At the SAS

The Peacock Room offers Chinese dining from Peking to Szechuan daily for lunch and dinner, except Saturday. Al Boom features Oriental and Western cuisine for dinner, nightly, and lunch and dinner on weekends.

Open Evening

Studying in Britain is the title of an "Open evening" which will be held at the British Council on March 14 and 15, from 5 to 8 pm, for anyone interested in studying Business Administration, Management or Finance in Britain. A wide range of information will be on display with details of courses to suit both students and professionals. (Please note that if either date is declared a public holiday then its alternative date will be March 16). For details contact the British Council, 2 Al Arabi St., Mansouriya. Tel: 2515512.



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LETTERS & EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE luck of having talent isn't enough, you must also have a talent for luck — Hector Berlioz, French composer (1803-1869).

Symbol of Arab-Israeli distrust

Keeping peace in demilitarised zone

By John Fullerton

QUNAYTRA, Syria, (Reuter): Lieutenant Abdullah Sleiman of the Syrian Army is at war with the two Israeli soldiers 100 metres (yards) away, his only weapon a pair of elderly binoculars.

Between the protagonists lies United Nations disengagement position number 28, a huddle of white-painted huts and barricades manned by young Syrians in blue berets, equipped with Stier rifles and dogs trained to sniff out explosives.

The two Israelis, probably reservists like Sleiman, shelter from the bitter wind in their own guardroom. A taunting sign reads: "Welcome to Israel."

To the south, Sleiman's post faces a deceptively peaceful, grassy field dominated by a ridge topped by an array of advanced Israeli electronic listening gear and bunkers.

Inches under the grass lie mines planted by Israeli and Syrian forces during the October 1973 Middle East war, when armoured battles raged around this rolling plain now littered with boulders and the wrecks of burned-out tanks.

"Only a few weeks ago a 17-year-old Syrian stepped on a jumping mine, and it sheared off the top of his head," said an Austrian officer in the UN peacekeeping force.

Leap

The device is designed to leap two metres (six feet) into the air before exploding in a spray of steel fragments.

Syria is still at war with Israel but they are kept from each other's throats by a 1974 ceasefire pact that must be renewed every six months.

Occasionally, the UN soldiers say, the two sides test each other's responses.

Israeli jets have dropped out of the mist swirling around the Golan Heights. The huge line of peaks to the west are streaked with snow at this time of year.

"I remember they came in low," said one UN soldier. "They climbed vertically over Qunaytra and left." Syrian Sukhoi jets have done much the same thing, in the other direction.

Qunaytra district is Syrian-held but demilitarised territory with Israeli positions visible on three sides.

Tibetan nationalists play to world stage

By Kathy Wilhelm

BEIJING, (AP): The renewed use of violent tactics by Tibetans seeking independence reflects their willingness to accept punishment by the Chinese in order to draw foreign attention to their cause.

Yet, Tibet's fewer than 2 million people lack the numbers, organisation and equipment to mount any kind of serious independence movement for the land swallowed by the Chinese communist giant in 1950.

Several hundred thousand Chinese soldiers and special police are garrisoned in the strategic region abutting a sometimes hostile India and the Himalayan states of Bhutan and Nepal. Military and police installations occupy large chunks of the mile-high capital city of Lhasa.

No outside power disputes China's claim to Tibet. When Tibetans led by Buddhist monks held a series of protests in September and October, Chinese troops crushed them inexorably.

A terse official report indicated police also moved in force to put down Saturday's protest, in which an undisclosed number of Tibetans attacked a police station, beat up police and burned their vehicles. Western sources said three to nine people were killed.

Condemned

Last years protests, including one in which rock-throwing Tibetans faced gun-toting police, prompted outcries from international human rights groups.

Several US Congressmen also condemned China's actions in the demonstrations, which left at least 14 people dead.

The US Senate passed a non-binding resolution urging President Reagan to press Beijing to improve its human rights

record in Tibet.

The Congressmen's comments and senate actions angered Beijing and encouraged many Tibetans.

"We are friends," one Tibetan told an American in Lhasa in late February. "The United States helps the Dalai Lama," he said, referring to Tibet's exiled religious and civil leader who has become a symbol of Tibetan nationalism.

Others echoed his views, perhaps failing to understand that support from individual US Congressmen does not automatically translate into US government support.

Meet

Congressmen are expected to meet this week with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, who is on a weekend US trip, and the latest visit is likely to appear on the agenda.

Tibetans seek neither US money nor Stinger missiles, but support for their claim to independence and help in promoting their case before the United Nations.

However, the US State Department has made it clear that it does not dispute China's claim to sovereignty over Tibet, although it issued a statement in October deploring human rights violations there.

Many Tibetans believe their case is self-evident and express puzzlement at the lack of world recognition.

"The Chinese say we are one country. But one country has one flag," a 20-year-old monk told a visitor. "We have a different flag, different food, different speech."

The sharpest conflicts between Tibetans and Chinese have been over religion, in part because civil and religious affairs historically were mingled in Tibet. Its monks were its rulers, and its Lamaist sect of Buddhism was a key element of national identity.

Reduce the price

SIR: I have been a regular reader of the Arab Times for the last eight years and I am happy that it contains an Urdu section to cater to Pakistanis and to some Indian expatriates.

The Arab Times provided lot of material worth reading, but there are some pages which are useless. It is a wastage of manpower and material. For example, the pictures printed in "In Focus, the World Today" page have no charm and attraction. They are not coloured and the black and white pictures are mostly not clear.

Next, the pages on world stock markets. Two pages are provided for stocks. Readers in general have got nothing to do with the stocks and the banks and exchange companies have their own means to get the latest information. For the common man, rates of currencies and gold are sufficient.

The two Urdu pages are enough to cover almost everything. The rest of the pages are useless to the Urdu readers.

The price of the newspaper has been increased to 150 fils. I am sure that the number of

readers has decreased due to this increase.

I suggest that the pages of the Arab Times be decreased to half of the present number, using only the most interesting and essential material. The price of the Arab Times can then be reduced to 100 fils. In this way the number of readers will increase.

Shahid Iqbal, Safat.

Unpardonable offence

SIR: I was recently shocked to read an advertisement, which appeared in a local English daily, that put Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, alongside Madras, Trivandrum, Bombay, Goa and Delhi under the heading "Flights to India."

I called the Air India head office in Kuwait and asked them if they have any direct flight between Kuwait and Dhaka. The answer was negative. I also enquired if they had any direct flight in the past. They replied: "We never had..."

In the past the Indian media had published maps showing Bangladesh as being a part of

India. Kashmir is also depicted as Indian territory when everyone knows that a part of Kashmir belongs to Pakistan. Under these circumstances I have every reason to believe that this advertisement was placed intentionally and an insult to all Bangladeshi nationals.

Bangladesh is one of the largest Muslim countries with a population of 110 million people. The country is an active member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

I wonder how such an advertisement, depicting Dhaka as part of India, was published in a Kuwaiti newspaper. I appeal to the Bangladesh ambassador and the government of Kuwait to look into the matter. It is an unpardonable offence.

A. T. Z. Ahmad, Safat.

Direct bus route

SIR: The KPTC does not provide direct bus route from Istiqlal Street, Shaab, Bneid Al Qar and Keifan to the Canada Dry area. Commuters have to take connecting buses from Murgab or 4th Ring Road. We

request KPTC to introduce a new route from Istiqlal Street via Shaab, 3rd Ring Road, Bneid Al Qar/Keifan to Canada Dry Street and Sulabikhat. This would enable many workers to reach their offices on time without wasting valuable time travelling.

A similar request was made to the KPTC authorities through this column in August 1987. So far they have not taken any action. KPTC provides adequate services in other sectors of Kuwait. I hope they will review our request and do the needful.

Cee Gee, Hawalli.

Produce good drivers

SIR: This refers to recent Arab Times reports about setting up new driving schools in Kuwait. It is very good news. The present inadequate training of new drivers contributes to the high, intolerable percentage of the accident rate in this country.

I often see cars with learner's plates speeding recklessly on the roads; learners switch lanes without using indicators; they

do not use dipped headlights at night and their instructors don't advise them to wear seat belts.

I hope well-trained drivers will run the new schools. All learners must be taught to "learn the traffic laws" and follow it. I hope the new traffic law, which is under review, is at par with the international standards.

Kuwait has the best road network and the most modern cars in the world. Why should the country have the highest accident rate?

The driving schools have to shoulder the heavy responsibility of producing a reliable, new generation of drivers. All beginners must complete a course at the motor school before obtaining a driver's licence.

Dr Laezio Sarkady, Mahboula.

Clipped film

SIR: I recently saw a Malayalee feature film at the Sulabikhat Cinema. The film has been released on video and at the cinema hall by the Kuwait Cinema Company. Important



scenes lasting about 20 minutes were taken out of the film shown at the cinema hall. This is an injustice meted out to cinema-goers. We go to see films in the theatre in the hope of enjoying a film on the big screen. I have been told that films are often clipped unjudiciously, mostly during the second show on Thursdays. I request the KCC to rectify the said situation.

C. K. Satyraj, Safat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Bush steaming towards home

By Arnold Sawicki

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Vice President George Bush has cut a swath through the south that will be compared to William Tecumseh Sherman's famous march to the sea in the closing stages of the civil war.

Indeed, it may turn out that Bush's triumph in the states from Massachusetts to Hawaii that voted on Super Tuesday brought the Republican Party to the closing stages of the contest for its 1988 presidential nomination.

Before Super Tuesday, Bush had about 10 percent of the 1,139 delegates needed to win — now he has about two-thirds of the total that will win in New Orleans in August.

There are three Primaries left in March, three more in April. If Bush swept them, he could have the Republican nomination locked up by May Day.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole and former evangelist Pat Robertson still are in the race, but because they are so far behind, a complete turnabout in

the current trend in the Illinois primary next week, the vice president probably will start thinking about who he wants to be his vice president.

The Democrats cleared no decks with their Super Tuesday voting, even though the whole idea of a regional primary was theirs and was supposed to produce a conservative southern alternative to the snow belt liberals they felt had been foisted on the party in recent decades.

Chase

Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee, the designated Dixie champion, carried enough states to avoid embarrassing himself, but the hard truth facing the inventors of Super Tuesday on reality Wednesday is that liberals — Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts and Jesse Jackson of Illinois — and Representative Richard Gephardt of Missouri are still very much in the chase.

Regionalism appeared to have little impact on the Republican outcome. Bush won big because his campaign was far better organised and run than Dole's

sputtering operation and Robertson's barely visible army of political evangelists. It is doubtful that many southerners voted for the Maine-born, Connecticut-reared Bush because he now votes in Texas, despite his efforts to play cowboy.

Also if anyone is President Reagan's man in the 1988 race, notwithstanding the absence of a spoken blessing from the Oval Office, it has to be Bush. Reagan remains popular in the south and Bush alone has defended him down the line in his campaigning.

Among the Democrats, Dukakis remains the leader and will be tested in coming weeks in the industrial states of the north such as Illinois, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio that traditionally have the most influence in selecting the party's standard bearers.

But Dukakis is going to be pressed by Jackson, who now has won twice as many primaries as he did in 1984 and has a delegate total close to the leader, and Gephardt, who will have the chance to sell his controversial trade proposals in states that have been hurt most by imports.

Gore's prospects are cloudy. He staked everything on Super Tuesday and won enough to go on, but he has not yet shown he can travel.



A German soldier smiles sheepishly accepting the adulation of young Viennese women. The soldier's unit had been rushed into Austria immediately after the resignation of Chancellor Kurt Von Schuschnigg. (Reuter wirephoto)

50th anniversary of annexation by Nazi Germany

Shadows of the past catch up with Austria

By Colin McIntyre

VIENNA, (Reuter): Austria this week marks the 50th anniversary of its annexation by Nazi Germany, an event likely to raise more awkward questions in a country still wrestling with controversy over President Kurt Waldheim's wartime role.

"Shadows of the past we had thought long overcome have caught up with us," Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said recently.

"We must concentrate on this commemoration not only on March 11, 1938, but analyse with integrity how it came about, and what role we played in the following years."

The anniversary marks the day when conservative chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg was forced by Adolf Hitler, the Austrian-born dictator of Nazi Germany, to resign, with the last words "may God protect Austria," paving the way for German troops to enter Austria the next day.

On March 13, 1938, the so-called "Anschluss" (annexation) law, which began: "Austria is a province of the German Reich," was passed by the German government.

For seven years, until the end

of World War II, Austria as such passed from the map and out of history. It was known as Ostmark, later even that name was dropped and the country was administered as just a collection of "gaue", or districts.

This year the anniversary is receiving extraordinary attention because of the controversy that flared over allegations that Waldheim had been involved in war crimes while serving with Hitler's Army in the Balkans.

Waldheim, after first failing to mention his war service in official biographies, argued he had only been doing his duty as a junior officer, and to have resisted would have meant death.

An international historians' commission convened to investigate his past found that he had known about and in some cases eased the way for war crimes, but it left open the question of his personal guilt.

Cancelled

While Waldheim maintained the commission's report had cleared him and pledged to stay on as head of state, the controversy over his past has continued to rage.

An anniversary speech he was to have given to parliament had to be dropped because of opposition from deputies. An alter-

native plan to address government leaders and parliamentarians in the Hofburg Palace also had to be cancelled after two ministers threatened to boycott the event.

Even so, demonstrators plan to show their opposition to Waldheim's mere presence at the ceremony by throwing a human chain around the Hofburg during it.

For many people both inside and outside Austria, however, the issue is not just the past of one man, but of the whole country, and whether its people have come to terms with it.

Marriage

The London Independent newspaper put it thus: "A man who likes to forget his wartime past at the head of a people now confronted with their own."

Many commentators see a major problem in the decision of the victorious Allies after the war to declare Austria the first victim of the Nazis — in spite of the fact that a large section of the population welcomed Hitler's annexation of his native country.

The leader of the World Jewish Congress, Edgar Bronfman, wrote in a recent New York Times article: "The Anschluss was no rape. It was a love affair. A marriage made in hell."

Efforts to keep Lebanon running

By Diana Abdallah

BEIRUT, (Reuter): Fearing that civil strife in Lebanon might disrupt its Middle East peace drive, the United States is mediating between the country's warring factions to pave the way for smooth Lebanese presidential elections.

Diplomats and political analysts said Washington sought to revive its role in the fractured country and was determined to see a new head of state who could keep the country running.

"The breakdown in central authority has made this country a haven for anarchy which forms a menace to America. The US wants to see normalcy back, but with the complicated Lebanese problems that might not be fully possible," one diplomat said.

The Americans see a scenario in which events in Lebanon can trigger war between Syria and Israel and they see Lebanon as a refuge for revolutionaries who could disrupt any peace efforts in the Middle East," he added.

President Amin Gemayel, a 47-year-old Maronite Christian, ends his six-year term in September as president of Lebanon, where Israelis, Palestinians, Iranians and Syrians and their local allies battle for control.

Visits to Damascus and Beirut in the past week by American officials were the first open moves by Washington since 1983, when Syria blocked a US-backed Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal pact, diminishing US influence in the country.

Undersecretary of State Richard Murphy and April Glaspie, a department aide, have been carrying proposals for political reforms from Gemayel to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

In a text of the proposals published in the leftist As Safir newspaper, Gemayel suggested a 12-year period for the distribution of posts on the basis of religion to be abolished from the Lebanese political system, formed 45 years ago when Christians were a clear majority.

Syria's Muslim allies in Lebanon say Christians are now in a minority and have rejected the plan, saying they want to overturn the system immediately.

Gemayel's proposals did not give anything new to the Muslims or to Syria. He is at the end of his term so he will not make concessions," a Muslim politician said.

He said Gemayel's proposals followed "American pressure." Muslims are ready to accept that the president be a Christian but demand access to all government posts saying the current power balance is unfair.

Lebanon's unwritten national covenant of 1943, shows out key posts among the main sects, stipulating the president should be a Maronite, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim and the speaker of parliament a Shi'ite.

Muslim leaders have boycotted Gemayel since 1986 when he rejected a Syrian-backed plan to end the civil war by giving Muslims more say and Syria a bigger role in the country's affairs.

The boycott has paralysed the government and limited Gemayel's role to that of a Maronite chieftain.

Syria, with 25,000 troops controlling two thirds of the country, is the main foreign power-broker and analysts say Washington has now accepted its role in Lebanon.

"The Americans know the

Greek-Turkish thaw may help solve Cyprus problem

By John Owen-Davies

ANKARA, (Reuter): Turkey's rapprochement with Greece has opened the way for possible new moves on the problem of divided Cyprus and enhanced Ankara's standing with the European Economic Community (EEC), political analysts said on Sunday.

But some also cautioned that there was a long way to go before Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's diplomatic campaign would bear fruit.

Ozal, who returned this week-end from his second meeting with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu in five weeks, has also tried to reduce tensions with neighbours Bulgaria and Iran.

"A remarkable five weeks," said one senior Western diplomat. "Ozal is pragmatic and what has happened is part of a pattern. We must wait for results. Anything is possible."

The Turkish press has generally viewed Ozal's initiatives with guarded optimism tinged with some scepticism.

Critics, including some Turkish parliamentarians, accuse him of devoting too much time to foreign policy and shying away from worsening domestic problems.

Appeasement

"Ozal seems to be trying to solve foreign policy problems with appeasement to create a peaceful belt around Turkey so that he can then turn to the economy," professor Fahir Armaoglu, a columnist with the conservative daily Tercuman, told Reuters.

European Economic Community envoys said the thaw in relations with EEC member

Greece had helped Turkey's image in the group but basic objections to its full membership, including a poor human rights record and an Asian-Muslim identity, remained.

Armaoglu said détente between Nato allies Turkey and Greece was good for the Western alliance's southern flank, but he did not expect tangible bilateral results for some time.

Ozal and Papandreu, whose countries nearly went to war a year ago over rights in the Aegean Sea, announced moves last week to settle differences on issues including missing people in Cyprus and Greek property seized by Turkey.

"We have realised these problems cannot be solved at a stroke. It will take time, patience and hard work," Ozal said after the talks in Brussels after a Nato summit meeting.

Ozal, a conservative who has made EEC entry the main goal of his foreign policy, also said he would visit Athens in June.

Ratify

Papandreu said Greece, which had been at loggerheads with Ankara for more than three decades, would ratify a 24-year-old co-operation agreement between the EEC and Turkey.

Commentator Mehmet Ali Birand, writing in the liberal daily Milliyet, said: "The meetings have ended with a moratorium (and) started a new process. This is the most dangerous aspect."

"I do not believe there are any other two neighbours who have agreed on moratorium and have gone on undoing them as frequently as us (Greece and

Turkey)." Diplomats said Turkey might withdraw some soldiers from the self-proclaimed Turkish republic of north Cyprus as a result of the thaw between Ankara and Athens and the election of a new president, George Vassiliou, by Greek Cypriots.

"Anything up to 10,000 troops may be withdrawn as a gesture to get talks moving," a Western diplomat said. "But the problem is no one really knows Ozal's view on Cyprus."

The issue of the Turkish troops has been a major stumbling block between Turkish and Greek Cypriots ever since they were sent in 1974 after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta then ruling Greece.

Turkish Cypriots say there are 18,000 to 19,000 Turkish soldiers in the north of the island. UN and independent sources put the figure at around 29,000.

Ozal also engineered the signing of a protocol with Bulgaria, partly to help to resolve a row over a Turkish minority which Ankara says Bulgaria is forcibly assimilating.

"It was an unexpected and largely atmospheric agreement. Bulgaria still appears as hostile as ever," a diplomat said.

Ozal visited Iran in late February, gaining few tangible results while confirming a delay in building a planned \$3.5 billion Iranian oil export pipeline through Turkey.

But official sources said Turkey, neutral in Iran's war with Iraq, made progress on boosting border security to curb Kurdish separatist rebel activity in southeastern Turkey.

Armaoglu

A few more suggestions

Keith Wells has some more radical ideas for improving the state of the world.

YOU will probably be astonished to hear that since I wrote last week's article on a single world government has contacted me to put my radical suggestions into practice. However, I feel it is my duty to continue to think freely and creatively about the world and its problems and have come up with a few more ideas on how to improve things around here.

First of all, the Moon. The plain fact is that it's too far away to be much use. If we bring it nearer there will be many advantages... for a start we won't need street lights at night, in fact artificial lighting will become a thing of the past, thus saving a fortune in electricity. It'll also save lots of marriages too since we husbands will no longer get nagged about replacing light bulbs in the hall by means of a chair precariously balanced on a table which in turn rests dangerously on the wife's advice and useless instructions like "Be careful dear".

Another good thing about the moon being nearer is that it will be high tide all the time, so shipping schedules will be speeded up tremendously, although as I said last week I propose to drain most of the wasted parts of the world's oceans so we won't need half as many ships anyway.

Nearer
If the moon is brought nearer it'll be much easier to get to, and should soon replace the Costa Blanca as the world's favourite holiday resort. Two weeks on the Costa Luna will make a marvellous break for anyone who really wants to get away from it all.

Then there's the question of nuclear energy. I suggest we forget the whole thing and go back to old clear energy, we never had any problems with that, history shows us that it was much safer, no fall out, no Chernobyls, no Welsh sheep glowing in the dark. Old clear

energy was good enough for the Romans and the Moghuls and they seemed prosperous enough.

Speaking of the Romans, one of my best ideas is to bring back the old Roman amphitheatre with gladiators fighting to the death on prime time television. But not just any old gladiators, no we want to see the real trouble makers. If the Ayatollah Khomeini wants to start a war, let him put his sword where his mouth is! Reagan would think twice before challenging Gorbachev or anyone else and that might be a chance even against Yasser Arafat. Pretty soon Mohammed Ali would become President which would be a great improvement since he seems far less brain damaged than the present incumbent. As for Thatcher, well she'd just have to hope that no-one would hit a lady, though I suspect she'd be pretty handy with a trident and a hairnet.

What else is there to change while we're at it? Oh yes, how about Time? That could really do with a shake out. For a start I suggest we re-name Today as Tomorrow, then when all those bureaucrats say "Come back tomorrow," you could simply reply, "Here I am, now get on with it!" Efficiency would improve one thousand percent.

We should also re-arrange the hours of the day which at present are just too boring for words. If five o'clock came right after ten o'clock, for example, then everyone's working day could be cut to a mere two hours and we'd all feel

better. Best of all we could simply drop 8.00 pm altogether and then we wouldn't have to watch KTV News anymore. Hands up all those in favour... right, carried unanimously just as I expected.

On the political front I've had another brilliant idea. It seems pretty obvious that the trouble with most politicians is that they have too narrow a view of the world. They just want to get what is best for their own country and to hell with everyone else. Okay, why not switch them all round. Hold elections the same as we do now, but once the guy is elected, then put his name in a hat and draw lots for which country he, or she is going to be leading. That way, dear Mrs Thatcher can run Chad, which so far doesn't seem to have run very far in its life. Mitterrand can take over Russia and introduce good French cooking. Gorbachev can go and look after South Africa and Reagan can take over the PLO. Maybe then they will all begin to take a global view of the world and its problems instead of a narrow nationalistic one. The scheme would work even better if they were rotated every year or so, in case they started getting too immersed in their country's point of view.

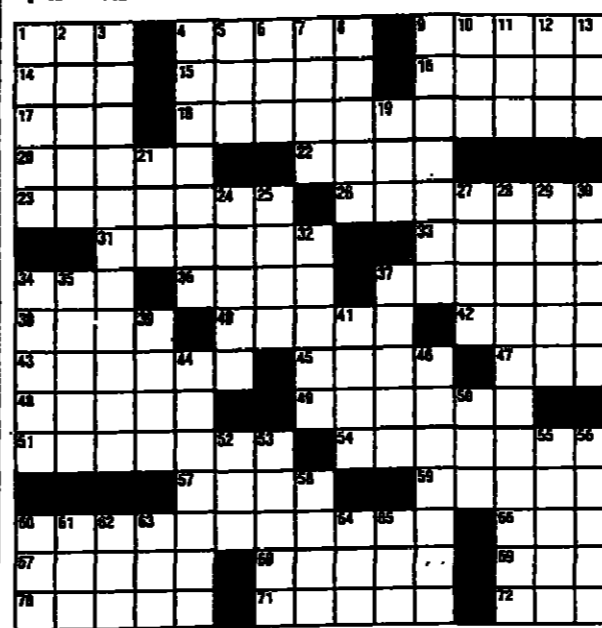
On a more day to day level, I suggest that the world could save a fortune by closing all the hospitals, which are full of sick people. Obviously these hospitals must be attracting them. If we close them down, then the sick people would have nowhere to go to indulge their hypochondria. I mean, there

aren't any sick people in libraries are there? So, why don't we fill all the hospitals with books, turn them into libraries to improve our education and slash our medical expenses at the same time.

Sex
One last little thought, have you ever wondered what the world would be like without sex? All this division between male and female just creates trouble, two types of bicycles, buttons on the left and the right, beards versus make-up, skirts against trousers, long red fingernails versus short plain ones, fashion shows and football matches. It's all incredibly expensive and wasteful of the earth's resources. I suggest we abolish the whole thing in favour of a New Order. Something radical but simple, like north and south hemispheres, so people from one married couple from the other, all arranged by computer without fuss or emotion. The ones in the south could wear pink, those in the north blue, just for tradition's sake, but otherwise there'd be an end to all unnecessary distinctions. Chances are you'd never have to bother to stand up and give them your seat or waste hours making up to look nice for them or produce separate magazines, toilets, clothing or spectacles. The savings would be enormous and I know millions of people would be delighted at the idea of living half a world away from their spouses.

Post script: Mr Keith's Radical Diet... Don't eat anything white, it's all bad for your figure. Think about it!

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Fuel
- 4 Summarize
- 9 Cowboy, at times
- 14 Likely
- 15 Author Jong
- 16 Habitué
- 17 Sign of a Bway, hit
- 18 A lot of money
- 20 Peter of nursery rhymes
- 22 Greek colonnade
- 23 Least hasty
- 26 Enroll, as a jury
- 31 Like some series of boxes
- 33 High society
- 34 Actress Arthur
- 36 Farm structure
- 37 Yuletide manger display
- 38 Old Norse poems
- 40 Rice or Gantry
- 42 Barely made do, with "out"
- 43 Commands
- 45 Namesakes of a Stowe heroine
- 47 Urban railroads
- 48 Race official
- 49 — floss
- 51 Moves up and down
- 54 Thinks logically
- 57 Spouse
- 59 Burdened
- 60 Army rookie
- 66 Before, to Donne

DOWN

- 2 Does clerical work
- 6 Eggs: Lat.
- 70 "The — Man": Welles film
- 71 City near Detroit
- 72 Sparks, the comedian
- 1 Shows amazement
- 2 T.S. Eliot's "cruelest month"
- 3 Come to a fast halt
- 4 Hold back
- 5 Miscue
- 6 French co.
- 7 New Testament book
- 8 Singer Page
- 9 Improve a wall's appearance
- 10 — liner (gag)
- 11 Wordplay
- 12 Sea eagle
- 13 Spanish king
- 19 — Kippur
- 21 Woolly animal
- 24 Piggeries
- 25 Famed archer
- 27 Out of the wind
- 28 Juke box of yore
- 29 Actress-singer
- 30 Yorkshire city

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ J954 ♥ Q6 ♦ KJ108 ♣ KJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 ♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 95 ♥ AJ63 ♦ J102 ♣ AQJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

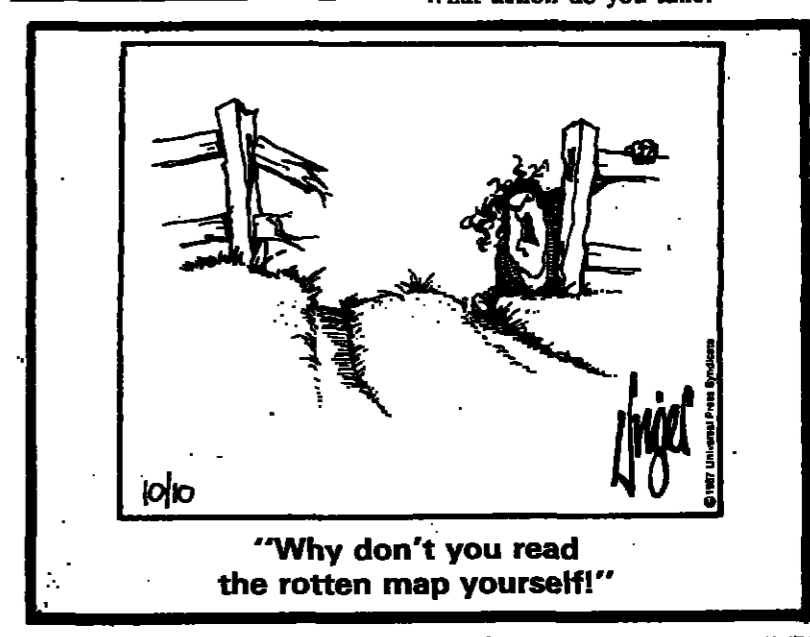
Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KJ6 ♥ A1065 ♦ KQ98 ♣ 73
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K1083 ♥ AQ ♣ AKJ63
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 76 ♥ AK874 ♦ 95 ♣ A1043
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 83 ♥ Q92 ♦ AQ872 ♣ 654
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
MART EARRL BARS
AGAR ADLAI YOGA
COTILLIONS ASHE
GAVIOTTE TARSAL
EVES LENDIA
OTTER FANDANGO
AKA REYET AGORA
GARS RIDER EVAS
APAIR SURER ANT
LINDYTOP CANST
TENOR MARU
ICEMEN BOLERDS
LOLA CHARLESTON
KILN HORAS ETTIE
ALA OWNS SOOT



The Art Buchwald Column

Smoke gets in your eyes



THE smokers and the nonsmokers had their greatest battle on a shuttle from Washington to New York last week. The smokers claimed the nonsmokers started it when a puffer lit up a Virginia Slim and an anti-smoker activist threw a pail of water at her.

The anti-smoker said she only lit the water because she thought the passenger was on fire. To show support for one of their own, all the smokers lit up and started blowing black tar at the nonsmokers, many of whom were senior citizens flying at half price.

Several nonsmokers put sick bags over their faces as a attacked the smoking section, assaulting the smokers with weighted briefcases and duty-free shopping bags.

The smokers rose as a group and set the sick bags on fire with their cigarette lighters. The stewardesses put the fires out and, to restore order, gave an extra demonstration of how to evacuate the airplane using the life jackets located under everybody's seat.

To stop any further rioting the captain put on the "no smoking" sign. This angered a man who was not

only a smoker but an executive of a large tobacco company.

"I know my Constitution. I have as much right to smoke as these tawdry people have not to," he said to a stewardess who was selling coffee, tea or milk from a cart in the aisle.

"Smoking is bad for my health," the stewardess said.

"Medical tests show it doesn't hurt anyone's health," the executive told her.

"But it stinks up my clothes," a nonsmoking man said to the executive.

"You're blocking my view of Philadelphia," a lady in the smoking section started to hyperventilate. "I can't breathe," she cried. "I have

to have a cigarette."

A smoker who looked like a Marlboro Man strolled down the aisle, lit up, leaned over and encouraged her to puff.

"It says no smoking on the sign," a passenger yelled angrily.

"This is an emergency," the Marlboro Man said. "Without a cigarette this lady could die."

"Stewardess, I want to speak to the captain," the nonsmoker said.

The captain came out of his cabin carrying a Uzi submachine gun.

"What are you doing with that gun?" the nonsmoking passenger asked.

"We carry them now to break up arguments between smokers and nonsmokers on the shuttle. We used to have rubber bullets and water cannon,

but they didn't have enough force to pacify people on the flights. Now what's the problem?"

"That man is permitting this lady to smoke and she's blowing it into the nonsmoking section. Throw them the hell off the plane."

"I can't do that. We have rules we must abide by. The pilot went over to the woman, who was lying on the floor. "Are you all right?"

"A couple more puffs will do it," she said.

"Why don't you go outside on the wing of the plane?" the pilot suggested.

"Is that permitted?" the woman asked.

"Everything is permitted since deregulation."

1968, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

By Pascal Fletcher

LUSAKA. (Reuters) In love? Looking for the right partner? Heading for divorce? Suffering from impotence or something worse?

Take your problems to "The Bedroom", Lusaka residents will tell you.

The Bedroom, a small, battered, blue, green and white painted caravan parked in downtown Lusaka, is where Alfred Nawa, a traditional herbalist or 'nanga', holds his daily surgery.

The back of the caravan, which faces onto an open car park, bears the words 'mobile delicatessen' in large black letters. But 45-year-old Nawa caters strictly for the gourmets and gluttons of love.

He treats what he calls 'social diseases', ranging from venereal diseases to impotence and barrenness, using medicines made from roots, herbs and bark. He also provides love-potions, aphrodisiacs and contraceptives, all from natural ingredients.

"I'm a herbalist and I call this 'The Bedroom' because it's where I combine all the social problems into one," Nawa said in his surgery, which contains a low bed, a handbasin and a rack of jam-jars holding a variety of ground herbs and roots.

Stick and pieces of root and bark are piled in one corner. "I collect and dig them all myself," he says.

Nawa proudly shows an

Mobile clinic for the love-sick



Alfred Nawa, a traditional Zambian herbalist outside his caravan in Lusaka, Zambia.

official permit allowing him to practise in the Lusaka area as a herbalist on the condition that he does not contravene Zambia's dangerous drugs laws or the witchcraft act, which bans certain kinds of witchcraft.

"None of what I do is witchcraft," it's all straightforward," he said.

"This is for venereal disease," he says holding up a jam-jar of coarse brown powder made from a root called 'mushakashela'. He guarantees a cure in two or three days and says it also works as a remedy for barrenness.

For impotence, Nawa pres-

cribes a bark and root called 'mutototo'. His recommended contraceptive is a herbal fibre known as 'chileshi' which is tied around the waist of the woman.

The remedy for men and women seeking a marriage partner is a bark called 'mpeto'. "You smoke it and call the name of the person you want," Nawa said.

Another potion for the lovesick and to reconcile those headed for divorce is kanenga, a paste rubbed on the forehead.

Again, the name of the loved one is invoked.

Nawa, who is from Mongu in Zambia's Western province, says

he has been practising as a herbalist since 1958.

"I inherited it from my grandmother, who was also a herbalist, but I've been making it more of a commercial proposition," he says.

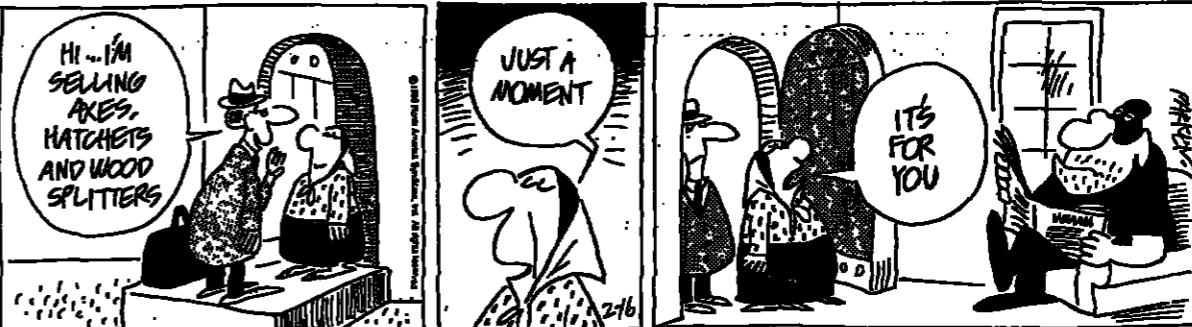
Custom is good, especially for remedies for venereal diseases, he adds.

Asked whether he has found a cure for the killer disease AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), which can be sexually transmitted, he ruefully shakes his head.

"I have nothing at the moment. But I'm doing research," he says.

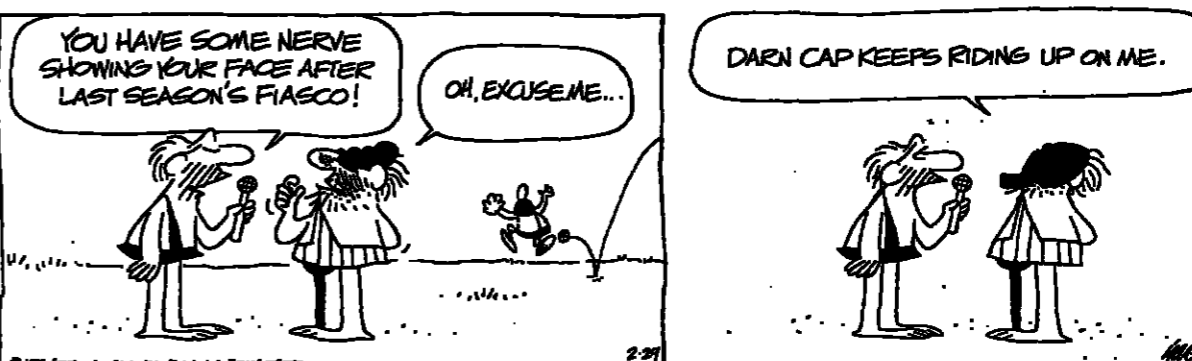
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

Once you have decided upon a change see it through. And once you have made up your mind stick to it. Remember it costs nothing to say thank you. Be cordial.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should make sure that you put your health first. Leave yourself with enough time to think. Do not try to get something for nothing or you will be disappointed. Be less arrogant.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You should not allow yourself to be influenced by your moods. Think objectively without giving vent to your prejudices. Avoid doing anything that you only half believe in. Be considerate.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)

You are liable to leave a little too much to chance. It would be quite wrong for you to act out of revenge. Avoid taking too much for granted just now. Be a little more reticent.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will have to deal with a rather intransigent person but if you do not lose your head all will be well. Persuasion is still better than an attempt at force. Make sure you get enough rest. Be generous.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should not underestimate the difficulties, but nor should you exaggerate them. You will have plenty to do, but you should get on with it rather than being intimidated by it. Do not let your likes and dislikes predominate. Be flexible.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will have to keep your wits fully about you. Avoid playing with other people's feelings and do not try to be too clever. You will tend to lose your way and should not hesitate to ask. Be alert.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will be able to get a lot done, only you should think before you act. Avoid any kind of extravagance but do not go so far as being mean. Make sure you drive safely. Be tactful.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will tend to put two and two together to make more than four. You will have something to be pleased about. However you must avoid being complacent or self-satisfied. Be less pretentious.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You should avoid all kinds of distortions and extremes. Make sure you do not let the cat off the bag. Think a little longer before you act. You would make a great mistake if you place too much trust in luck. Be tactful.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will find it easier to get on with others. You are liable to spend more than you had intended. You should take better care of your health. Be magnanimous.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will have to take the rough with the smooth, but there will be more smooth than rough. Something you have learnt recently will stand you in good stead. Do not allow work to become too predominant. Be attentive.

CINE ROUND-UP FROM BOMBAY

by Firoze Rangoonwalla

Special to the
Arab Times

Bombay's new breed of 'actresses'

Short on talent, plenty of oomph

A NEW breed of actresses is fast invading Bombay's film town and flying upwards on the strength of sheer female power. In a parallel development, a new class of films has started, with little bits of nudity and a whole lot of sex-appeal as their main planks of survival.

Were these titillating films started because there were girls willing to expose themselves? Or the girls merely toe the line on the scripts prepared for them. That is the big chicken and egg riddle without an answer. Suffice it to say that both came to each others rescue in the midst of stiff competition from the multi-starrers and

spectaculars.

The young starlets working in these modest-budget films already had an example set for them by bigger stars, like Mandakini, Kimi and Dimple.

Mandakini has performed a topless bathing gimmick for R.K.'s Ram Teri Ganga Maili and is still busy doing the same routine for other producers. Kimi was so scantily-clad in Tarzan, that people came to see the male and not the ape-man. Dimple in Insaaf bared no less in those sensuous songs and dances with Vinod Khanna, just as Sridevi did with Anil Kapoor in the dream sequence of Mr India.



Sonam: less talent can always be replaced by less clothes

How then can one blame the Sonicas, Sonams, Sahilas, Saaniyas or Suparnas for what they are doing? After all, less talent can always be replaced by less clothes. That is a sure way of making the producer sit up and sign. The new girls have completely put in the shade professional exhibitionists like Leena Das, Huma Khan, Kalpana Iyer and company. Even talented actresses have had to take recourse to "showing" themselves in order to get some good roles.

For instance Sujata Mehta who did not bag anything after Pratigast, had photo sessions wearing all kinds of trendy dresses which were then published in various magazines. Deepa Sahi (of TV serial Tamas) is doing a weird showy role in Hero Hiralal. And even Anita Kanwar (La joji of Bun-yaad) has done a nude scene for an alleged art film the N.F.D.C.

The success, last year, of some films starring the youthful people has also fuelled the desire to make more of them. Quite high up on the 'hit list' was Jawani

Ke Jalve. In fact, the password for such dubbed films seems to be Jawani, Nashilee Jawani and Khooni Jawani.

Then there were Kachhi Kali, Dozakh, Kamagni, Badkaar, Wahem and two films Sheela and Jungle Ki Beti, with the not-so-new idea of a semi-clad apewoman. But it was Main Aur Tum which made a big impact, with the new pair Sonica Gill and Brando Bakshi. Sonica had already raised eyebrows, with a raised mini-blouse knotted in the front, in Kachhi Kali. She will be again at it in films called Aag Jawani Ki and Raat Ke Gunah.

But one who has been lionised by the big movie mughals is Sonam. Ever since Yash Chopra gave her a break in Vijay and she willingly did revealing scenes in bathing costumes and posed similarly for the mags, she became hot property for the big-budget industry. Without a single release she is juggling for dates on more than a dozen films. Saaniya is another who dared and bared. Her interview about her affairs has

created even more sensation, than the rape scenes she has done in films like Lashkar. Sahila Chadha who played the female Tarzan Sheela is now doing Jawani Ke Gunah.

So, what more is cooking for the viewers and the voyeurs? Quite a lot. Something called Pyaasi Atma has already been passed by censors. It has a thirsty soul in the shape of a semi-nude woman, which is also the common feature in most of the N.R.I imports. There is Kumar Badaar, with a girl in a bikini as its main selling point, and Kharidar which proudly proclaims "Sex is the base." A dubbed film Jawani Ki Pyaas from Madras has a number of bedroom scenes and calls itself a "sex-positive movie".

Dada Khondke's Aage Ki Soch is all full of double entendre and suggestive gestures which are his forte. There is a film with new faces which has boldly titled itself "bedroom story". The maker of Jawani Ki Pyaas which is complete has started another called Galtiyan (mistakes) with a bevy of beauties. Jism (Body) has attracted a T.V. star Chama Ruparel from Chumanti. And there are a couple of sex education films too. The box-office goddess indeed demands and takes a lot.



Suparna: one of the new breed of actresses that have put professional exhibitionists in the shade.

Behind the Screen

Govinda lost his temper at a private screening of Jeete Hain Saan Se. It was right in the first scene where the three heroes Mithun, Sunjay Dutt and he are introduced. Our boy from the slums felt that he was not given as much importance as the other two heroes. So he left the small theatre in a huff, went to his posh bungalow and began to bang madly at the door. He only managed to hurt his own hand. And this dislocated some important shootings for which he had given a few dates. He did all this after seeing one scene. What if he had seen the whole film?

When colour had newly come to the Indian cinema, films were made partly in colour and this was promoted as a highlight. Now in the age of the big screen, at least one film is being made partly in 70-mm, but with a purpose. Hisseydard will have the first three reels on the small 35-mm screen. After that when Vinod Khanna enters the film, it will open up to 70-mm and become larger than life. Indeed, the size of today's films are only matched by the hero's ego.

And the extent to which colour is now dominating the Indian screen can be seen from the fact that in 1987, there was a production of 806 films. But only thirteen of them were in black and white. Even the 'poor' Bengali films have taken to colour in a big way. Producers forget that some movies are best made only in black & white.

Next to colour is the emphasis on violence. Almost every second film has heroes and villains pointing guns and knives at one another. But a really funny thing happened when Kabbie was recently put for a second run. The specially printed posters had Amitabh and Shashi Kapoor aiming guns. Even a purely romantic film was thus turned into a violent one, to get audiences.

Sunil Dutt's brother Som Dutt emerged from the attic after years and launched his own production Kam Rokega Mujhe? (who will stop me?). He called brother Sunil to grace the first shot. But soon after that, the two had a loud argument. Som had arranged a car for

Sunil to come but not to take him back. The star M.P. had not brought his own car. So he hailed an auto-rickshaw on the road and got in angrily. When photographers aimed their cameras at him Sunil, gave a pale smile, for publicity sake.

Rajendra Kumar's Jurrat is adapted (copied) from the currently popular English film 'Untouchables'. Bunt 'or' Kumar Gaurav packs a gun in pocket to look tough. Still, he needs the support of two dames. Anita Raaj the elder and Amala the younger. Is it female support or moral support?

Tanvi Azmi has made some progress by getting the role of Mirza Ghalib's wife in Gulzar's new TV serial. She is also acting in the serial "Along the Brahmaputra" made by Kalpana Lajmi of Ek Pal. It is obvious that she got both roles on recommendation of Shabana Azmi who is close to both Gulzar and Kalpana.

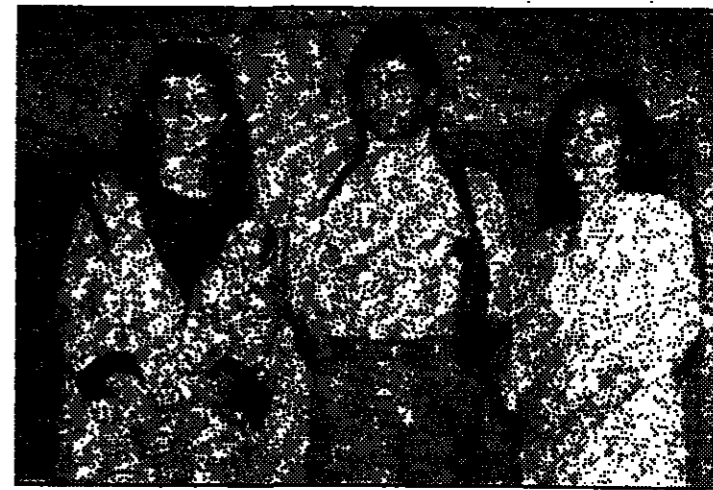
A real-life policeman Sagar Salunke happened to talk nicely with Prakash Mehra's driver who recommended him as an actor. Mehra called him and was impressed enough to sign him. Now, Sagar has dropped Salunke from his name and has become a screen cop in many films, including one with Amitabh.



Have rickshaw, will travel: Sunil Dutt takes a three-wheeler after being stranded by his brother



Hands up or I'll shoot: Govinda (far right) loses his temper quite often these days.



Lady-killer: Kumar Gaurav needs a gun plus two heroines to prop up his image in Jurrat



Sonica Gill in yet another revealing attire after the success of Kachhi Kali.



Deepa Sahi, of the TV serial 'Tamas' (second right) with Naseeruddin Shah and Sanjana in Hero Hiralal.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

SJOEGREN'S SYNDROME:
A CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE

QUESTION: A friend tells me her doctor diagnosed her as suffering from "Sjogren's syndrome." I never heard of this condition. What can you tell me about it?

ANSWER: If your friend suffers from perpetually dry eyes, or a dry mouth, she is indeed a victim of this unusual syndrome. Sjogren's syndrome is, after rheumatoid arthritis, the most common disease of the connective tissues. It either occurs on its own in specific and well-defined rheumatic disease such as rheumatoid arthritis or systemic lupus erythematosus.

The condition is caused by lymphocytes and antibodies from the bloodstream infiltrating the glands that produce tears and saliva and in effect drying them up. Loss of tears is known as xerophthalmia, and lack of salivation is called xerostomia. In tandem, the two are referred to as the "sicca complex." (Other condition may cause this complex, including aging and drug use.)

Women sufferers of the syndrome outnumber men by nine to one. While the condition usually occurs in the individual's 50s, it may develop during adolescence or early adulthood. The syndrome is more readily diagnosed in its secondary form, where the presence of a recognisable

rheumatoid condition helps tip off doctors to its presence. In its primary form, it may come and go and be hard to pinpoint.

As you can imagine, lacking the ability to shed tears or produce saliva can lead to more than a small amount of discomfort. The eyes may be subject to gritty or filmy sensation from real or imagined foreign particles, as well as to general eye fatigue. As the xerophthalmia develops, erosions and ulcerations can develop in the surface of the unprotected eye.

A dry mouth can lead to a sense of burning discomfort and a decreased ability to chew and swallow food. The tongue and lips can develop fissures, while the sense of taste and smell can diminish or vanish entirely. The dryness also can spread to nose and throat, compounding the discomfort experienced — all this in addition to a variety of other pains and aches that may occur in connection with the syndrome.

In primary cases of the syndrome, artificial tears can help minimise the discomfort of xerophthalmia; diving goggles are even worn at night to help retain eye moisture. Xerostomia is easier to treat by increasing the intake of fluids and using saliva substitutes. The level of humidity in the

sufferer's home can be increased via a humidifier.

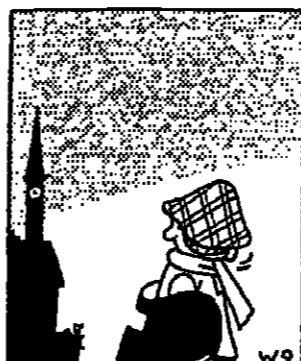
In cases of secondary Sjogren's syndrome, the main line of attack is to treat the specific disease the syndrome accompanies.

ACROSS MY DESK: In a forecast of health-care trends, a study titled "The Future of Healthcare: Changes and Choices" predicts that the demands of the growing senior population will have the single greatest effect on the healthcare system by 1995 than any other issue. The research, co-sponsored by Arthur Anderson & Co. and the American College of Healthcare Executives, asked more than 1,600 experts their forecast for trends of healthcare through 1995. By that year, seniors will comprise 15 per cent of the population and are expected to be a powerful political force in demanding quality care. But in an environment where policy may be motivated primarily by money issues, Medicare will expect seniors to pay more out of their pockets for medical coverage, according to the panelists. But despite efforts to change it, the predictions state that the eligibility age for benefits will remain at 65.

1988 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



سكياوول

Arab Times

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Exxon to spend \$1.8 billion on acquisitions

NEW YORK, March 9. (Reuters) Exxon Corp. watched by Wall Street for signs of how it will use its huge coffers of cash, said yesterday it may spend more on oil and gas acquisitions in 1988 than the \$1.8 billion it spent last year.

But top executives of the world's largest oil company, which reported just over \$3 billion in cash and marketable securities in its most recent quarter, said few businesses interested them at the moment.

"We could afford to buy anything but it has to fit... there is not that much around that would enhance US," Exxon chairman Lawrence Rawl told reporters after a rare meeting with industry analysts. He ruled out any hostile takeovers.

Among Exxon's acquisitions last year was the purchase of the Celoron Corp from Goodyear Tyre & Rubber Co.

Assets
Rawl and other top executives said the company is prepared to sell some unidentified business assets but refused to comment on reports that Saudi Arabia had approached Exxon for a possible refining and marketing partnership. "We are quite prepared to divest assets when they do not meet our plans," Exxon president Lee Raymond said. He did not detail which assets or where Exxon might consider selling.

In October, industry sources suggested the Saudis and Exxon were talking about a partnership combining Saudi crude oil supplies with Exxon's European refining and marketing.

Tourism flourished in industrialised world last year

PARIS, March 9. (Reuters) Tourism flourished in the major industrialised countries last year, with some countries showing a record increase in arrivals, OECD said yesterday.

Real earnings from the tourist trade, allowing for inflation and exchange rate fluctuations, rose six per cent in the 24-nation OECD last year, compared with a marginal 0.3 per cent rise in 1986.

Overall earnings were boosted by a 30 per cent jump in receipts in Australia and Japan and a 14 per cent rise in North America, the OECD said in its latest survey.

Growth
Europe saw the slowest growth, with receipts rising three per cent to take them back to their 1985 levels, after a 2.2 per cent drop in 1986.

Data from 14 OECD member countries showed that arrivals at frontiers rose by six per cent last year, against four per cent growth in 1986.

The Mediterranean was a boom area with a 13 per cent rise in arrivals after eight per cent in 1986 and 19 per cent growth in Turkey after a nine per cent drop in arrivals in 1986.

Australia saw the fastest growth of any individual country in 1987, with the number of tourists arriving up 27.3 per cent after 25.1 per cent growth in 1986. "Initial forecasts for 1988 are promising since conditions are favourable for tourism growth," the OECD said, noting that the means of payment used by OECD residents travelling abroad had been almost completely liberalised in 1987.

Oil prices will firm up, says UK minister

CARACAS, March 9. (Opecna) British Minister of State for Energy Peter Morrison said here yesterday he believes oil prices will firm up slightly during the next three months.

He added, however, that Britain had no plans to cut back on its oil production, nor would it take other measures to strengthen prices.

The minister arrived here at the weekend on a regional tour to promote exports of technology from the United Kingdom oil-field service and supply industry, Reuters reported.

According to Morrison, 80 per cent of the manufactured content of Britain's offshore oil industry now originates in the United Kingdom.

The British minister was scheduled to visit Venezuelan petroleum installations in Lake Maracaibo before leaving tomorrow for Colombia and Ecuador.

Special pricing committee urged to act

Opec faces price or output cut

JAKARTA, March 9. (Reuters) Opec will have to cut production or abandon its \$18 reference price and should have a clear idea of what to do before convening a special pricing committee, Indonesian Energy Minister Subroto says.

He told reporters today that if the five-member ministerial committee of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries met and failed to take action to stem falling oil prices, the market would fall even lower.

"Indonesia has agreed that such a meeting be held, but first there should be preliminary talks among the ministers," Subroto stated. The committee, which is empowered to call an emergency meeting of the 13-member

organisation, is composed of Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Nigeria and Venezuela.

Subroto said although Opec was now sticking to quotas, members faced the choice of either cutting prices or reducing production further given the present glutted market, which he blamed partly on high non-Opec production.

Measures
Pressure has mounted for the special pricing committee to convene to consider action in the face of oil prices four dollars below Opec's \$18 reference price.

Committee member Venezuela has called for a meeting. "With this situation we have to discuss the measures we're going

to take, whether we're going to maintain the \$18 price despite the weak market," Subroto said. "With no buyers, production has to be cut, not by the decision (of the oil ministers) but because it was forced by the market situation."

"The second problem is are we going to maintain our (production) volume, but at the same time allow the price to go down below the \$18 reference price?"

"The market situation in the first and second quarters is usually weak. But later, in the third and fourth quarters, nearing winter, demand usually increases. Well, this all should first be agreed upon before we meet."

Asked whether the meeting

would likely be held at the end of this month, Subroto answered: "It's not yet certain." But he said Indonesia had received Venezuela's invitation to attend a meeting of the Opec pricing committee.

Step
"But before holding the meeting it's better for the five oil ministers to think of a common step they are going to take to overcome the present problem," Subroto said.

"If we have not yet reached a consensus and later the oil ministers have differences of opinions, the danger is that the oil market will become unstable. For example, there will be news reports saying 'five oil ministers

cannot reach agreement' and that can weaken the market."

The Qatar News Agency reported yesterday that Saudi Arabia also wanted to hold preliminary talks before convening a pricing committee meeting.

Asked if he would attend the meeting if it was held, Subroto said it was up to the Indonesian president, who is due to announce a new cabinet this month.

Production
He said the market had weakened because of the mild winter in the northern hemisphere and high production by non-Opec countries.

"At present Opec members are sticking to their quotas," he stated.

Dollar to stabilise temporarily

SBC continues to favour fixed-interest investments

THE Swiss Bank Corporation's latest review of the investment scene argues that the persistently high volatility of the markets justifies their wait-and-see approach to equity investments.

They point out that the current stability of the dollar has meant that some markets have shown signs of recovery which should be exploited for trading purposes, but in the long-term the Swiss Bank Corporation continues to favour fixed-interest investments as more attractive than equities at the present time.

Crash
The bond markets are still profiting from the after-effects of the stock market crash which led to a major re-appraisal of investment risks and inflation expecta-

tions. Since the potential for a further drop in yields is getting smaller and smaller, SBC recommends that preference should go to medium term maturities (up to 7 years) when committing new funds.

They expect the US dollar to

stabilise temporarily but caution that medium to long-term fundamental risks should not be overlooked.

Therefore, they recommend that investors should concentrate on the European hard currency markets.

Turning to individual mar-

kets, SBC continues to advise against any extensive buying in the United States since they feel that a clearer picture of the influence of the decline in economic growth will emerge from the first quarter 1988 results.

They expect the biggest earnings gains to be posted by

year on March 31 could lead to a consolidation phase.

This should be used to buy recommended shares such as Fujitsu, Hitachi, Honda or Sumitomo Realty.

In Britain, the budget is due on March 15 and the market could well break through the 920 barrier over the next few weeks.

However, SBC recommends that investors should take advantage of higher prices for profit taking.

New long-term commitments should be concentrated on domestically-oriented stocks. On the other hand, the German stock market would seem to offer no probability of any lasting upward trend.

Any price gains should be used

for profit taking or for switching into cyclically-resistant stocks such as utilities or chemical majors like BASF or Henkel.

Uncertain

For France the outlook is uncertain and speculation about the outcome of the election will only increase market volatility thus arguing against any long term commitments.

Volatility is also expected in the Swiss market although in the shorter-term, Swiss Bank Corporation believes that a slight rise is likely.

However, they favour blue chip stocks and those of companies which are not vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuations with stable earnings and above average dividend yield.

Al Khorafi enters into partnership with Yugoslav company

Kuwait firm, PIM likely to win contract

By Jadranka Porter

AL-KHORAFI, Kuwaiti construction firm, has entered into partnership with PIM, a Yugoslav construction company which is known for extensive marine works it has carried out in Kuwait, to bid for a contract to develop the coastal area surrounding the Sief Palace.

Both the Al Khorafi construction firm and the Yugoslavs are optimistic about their chances to win the contract for the project, the work on which is expected to begin in the latter part of this year.

Plans
The general manager of PIM Veljko Skorice is currently in Kuwait for talks to weigh up his company's chances and map out plans for bidding on further projects earmarked in Kuwait's development plans.

Skorice is accompanied by Vlada Zidanski, an expert who has spent 12 years on and off in Kuwait leading the company's teams on projects such as the Shuwaik port and the waterfront project.

Heading the PIM's operation



Veljko Skorice in Kuwait is Aleksandar Babovic.

"We would like to be present on Kuwait's market in the coming years and we are confident

that we can still do some valuable work here," said Skorice.

The immediate plans are to bid for a contract for the fifth phase of the waterfront project which is included in this year's budget. The fifth phase extends from Ras Al Aard to the Shaab Sea Club.

PIM has earned an enviable reputation for its work on several important projects in Kuwait not the least of which is the waterfront project, phases one and two, opened recently by His Highness the Amir.

Construction
The company is known for completing the work on time and the quality of its performance has never been called into question. On the waterfront project PIM was entrusted with carrying out marine works on a 10-kilometre-long stretch of coast, a job worth close to KD 20 million.

The firm has in fact a long history in Kuwait. PIM opened offices in the Gulf state in 1966 and became the first Yugoslav firm to carry out construction works in the country. Even the first Yugoslav embassy was situated on the company's

premises.

PIM helped change completely the look of the Kuwaiti coastline. It looked nothing like it is now when we first came here," said Zidanski.

At Shuwaik port, PIM built the large vessel berths and installed moorings on dolphins and navigation lights on piles. They also constructed fishing ports in Shuwaik and Doha and built marinas near the Kuwaiti Towers, at Al Shaab, in Fahahel and Al Bida. They were also responsible for the construction of ferry terminals at Ras Al Aard and Fahahel.

Contracts for the shipyard in the Shuwaik port with a total investment of 2.4 billion riyals (\$184.6 million). Of them, more than 50 per cent had commenced commercial production.

Work was already under way for setting up the second electronics city near Mysore, southwestern Bangalore.

Project
Dr S Srikanthan, managing director of the Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation (Kedcon) and sponsor of the Electronics City Project, said the tempo of the project picked up after 1983 with the liberalisation of licensing policy.

"To cater to the needs of the growing electronics industry in the city, the Kedcon also proposed to set up a string of 'software parks' along the proposed ringroad around Bangalore. The 'parks' would have all the infrastructural facilities including satellite communications."

Srikanthan expressed his wish that Bangalore would soon catch up with Singapore in electronics production. Karnataka has been one of the leading states in India with regard to industrialisation. It stands first in the production of electronic equipments.

Confidence
However, he gives Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan a tentative vote of confidence. "Greenspan is talking good sense, but we don't know and won't know until there is crisis whether he has the toughness, the resolve and the control of the board that he would need" in a crisis, he said.

Taylor doesn't see the potential for a currency crisis dissolving anytime soon. "It will take several months to establish a trend that is strong enough to convince people that the deficit is coming down fast enough" and thus not react to any temporary setback, he said.

"It isn't enough for trade volumes to improve, they have to improve quickly."

Civilian unemployment declined to 5.7 per cent in February from 5.8 per cent in January. Traders had expected another 5.8 per cent figure. Ordinarily, lower unemployment would suggest a growing economy and make dollar investments more attractive to foreign investors.

Bangalore emerges as centre of India's electronics industry

NEW DELHI, March 9. (Xinhua) Bangalore, capital of India's Karnataka state, is fast emerging as the centre of India's electronics industry, local press reported today.

With the first ever electronics city on the outskirts of Bangalore already showing signs of bursting at the seams, a move is afoot to set up a third such centre exclusively for electronics in the city.

Already 40 companies were committed to locate their units at the electronics city with a total investment of 2.4 billion riyals (\$184.6 million). Of them, more than 50 per cent had commenced commercial production.

Work was already under way for setting up the second electronics city near Mysore, southwestern Bangalore.

Project
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India-China Chamber of Commerce opens

NEW DELHI, March 9. (Xinhua) The India-China Chamber of Commerce (eastern region) opened in India's largest city Calcutta yesterday.

In his inaugural address, Speaker of the West Bengal State Legislative Assembly H A Halim said there is a vast scope for India and China to exchange technical data and their experience in fields like automobiles and agriculture.

He Wei, Commercial Counsellor of the Chinese embassy, said the Indo-China trade could be improved through various instruments like barter trade, counter-trade and counter-investment. Bilateral trade could be strengthened once there is a stable understanding between the two sides based on mutual trust, he added.

World Business Summary

US-Soviet grain trade talks delayed: US officials

WASHINGTON, March 9. (Reuters) US-Soviet grain trade talks previously set to begin on March 11 in Vienna have been delayed at Moscow's request, US Officials said today. The officials said the delay in talks probably stemmed from a reorganisation of the Soviet bureaucracy and did not reflect an unwillingness by Moscow to go ahead with the negotiations.

"This is not a big deal," a US official said. "The Soviets are waiting on some people to be appointed to places in government and to give them titles." The head of the Soviet delegation to the grain negotiations, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade U.N. Chumakov, may be waiting to receive a new government title before heading for the talks, a US official said.

The talks might be rescheduled to begin next week, and a new starting date and possibly a new venue could be announced later tonight, US sources said.

The Reagan administration announced last Thursday that negotiations on a new long-term grain agreement, which would replace one that expires on September 30, were set to begin on March 11 in Vienna.

Trade in wheat, corn, soybeans and soybean products between the United States and Soviet Union has been guided by two separate agreements for the last 12 years. US officials said the delay in the new talks probably was not related to Moscow's decision last week to postpone until April 2 meetings of US and Soviet government and business officials originally set to begin next week.

They also said there was no reason to believe ethnic protests in the Armenian and Azerbaijan Soviet Republics had anything to do with the delay. Rescheduling of the talks was said to be complicated by US domestic politics. The head of the US delegation, Deputy Trade Representative Alan Hohnen, is responsible for keeping track of congressional action on a bill to rewrite US trade law. A congressional conference committee that is working on the legislation is expected to reconvene next week.

Poor cereal harvests will affect world food stocks

ROME, March 9. (Reuters) The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said today poor cereal harvests in 1987 will seriously reduce world food stocks. "The abundant safety margins for global food security of recent years are expected to narrow during 1988 due to a predicted 14 per cent reduction in world cereal stocks," FAO said in its latest World Food Outlook bulletin. The Rome-based agency said world cereal production was less than consumption for the first time in four years and accumulated stocks were likely to run down sharply in 1987-88. "At the projected level, world carryover stocks at the end of 1987-88 period would still remain above the level FAO considers necessary to safeguard global food security but the safety margin is shrinking," the agency warned. FAO said rice stocks were expected to fall by 16 million tonnes to 34 million, the lowest level in a decade, and export prices had risen by 45 per cent over a year ago. Wheat stocks had fallen to their lowest level in four years with export prices up by 14 per cent in a year ago.

1988 cereal crop prospects were favourable although much depended on spring plantings and the weather. FAO said if the 1988 season was unfavourable in major producing regions then the ration of stocks to consumption would fall further and cereal prices would rise.

Speculation mounts on Saudi oil price cut to Japan

TOKYO, March 9. (Reuters) Speculation mounted today on whether Saudi Arabia would remove one of the remaining props to the fragile oil market and offer price cuts to Japan. Oil prices dropped on reports that Abu Dhabi had offered discounts, leaving Saudi Arabia as the only Middle East producer still demanding high official prices in Japan. Tokyo oil industry sources said. Prices have plunged in recent days to more than \$4 below the \$18-a-barrel price target set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, mainly due to price cutting by Opec members to boost sales. Oil traders said the price could fall to \$10 if Saudi Arabia decided to discount. Prices are already at the lowest levels since October, 1986.

Key Middle East Dubai Crude was offered today on the free market at \$13.15 compared to its \$17.42 official Opec-set price, oil traders said. Abu Dhabi oil officials, due to arrive in Tokyo today, are expected to offer discounts to Japanese buyers, they said. "And it's quite conceivable that Saudi Arabia will do the same as Abu Dhabi," said an oil analyst. However, Japanese oil refineries were doubtful that Saudi Arabia would agree to a price cut. "We've already told Saudis we cannot lift any barrels at OSE (Official selling price), but they are succeeding in disposing of their production to the West," said one refiner.

"As long as they are in that position, there's no urgent reason for them to do anything for Japanese buyers," he said. "We are a captive market. We depend on the Middle East for oil, they know that."

Japanese firm to lend China \$1b
BEIJING, March 9. (AP) C. Itoh and Co., a major Japanese trading company, has agreed to lend a Chinese development firm \$1 billion for investment projects, a company official said today. Tadashi Yamamura, chief of C. Itoh's Beijing office, said his firm will provide the loan to China Kanghua Development Corp., a non-governmental investment company. Yamamura said the two sides still were discussing terms of the loan and how it will be used. He said it will help finance numerous projects. A letter of intent for the loan was signed at the Great Hall of the People on Tuesday by Teng Hsiao-ping, senior managing director of C. Itoh, and Zhao Ziyang, deputy general manager of Kanghua.

Yamamura said C. Itoh previously provided Kanghua with a \$1 billion loan for development of China's oil industry. Kanghua was established last June with the backing of the state council, which authorised it to use foreign loans for investment. It is patterned after the China International Trust and Investment Corp., which has had success as a government-backed but relatively independent conglomerate using Western-style management and financing methods.

Pakistan to cut foreign loans

ISLAMABAD, March 9. (Reuters) Pakistan announced plans today to freeze defence spending and cut dependence on foreign loans in a thrust towards self-reliance during a five-year development plan starting in July. Planning and Development Minister Mahbubul Haq said spending on defence and administration would be frozen in the first year of the seventh five-year plan and increased only three per cent a year thereafter. Defence cost \$2.53 billion in fiscal 1987/88, more than 38 per cent of the budget. Pakistan would borrow only 96 billion rupees (\$5.5 billion) abroad to finance the seventh plan, 17 per cent less than during the sixth plan, Haq told a briefing.

He said the self-reliance drive would include increasing agricultural, industrial and domestic oil production, greater use of domestic coal, and a reduction in sugar and oilseeds imports. The plan would encourage 'privatisation' to help ease government finances.

It would cost 642 billion rupees (\$37 billion), 38 per cent more than the sixth plan.

The public sector would get 350 billion rupees (\$20 billion) only a 26 per cent increase compared with a 56 per cent rise to 292 billion rupees (\$16.7 billion) for the private sector.

Haq said foreign loans would be cut each year to reach two per cent of gross national product in fiscal year 1992/93 from 2.9 per cent in 1987/88.

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	INCHCAPE	704/0
ABBEY LIFE	253/0	JAGUAR	323/0
ADT LTD	111/0	LADBROKE	384/0
ALD LYONS	366/0	LAND SEC	511/0
ANSTRAD	164/0	LAPORTE	385/0
ARGYLE GP	209/0	LASMO	12/00
ASDA MFI	178/0	LEGAL-GEN	75/00
BAA PP	107/0	LONRHO	258/0
BTR	260/0	LUCAS IND	643/0
BAT INDS	453/0	MAGNET	235/0
BASS	837/0	MARKS+SP	180/0
BEAZER	187/0	MAXWELL C	257/0
BEECHAM	492/0	MEPC	480/0
BET ORD	252/0	MIDLAND BK	395/0
BICC PLC	339/0	NEXT	284/0
BLUE ARMY	112/0	NTI FOODS	278/0
BLUE CIRC	463/0	P & O DFD	581/0
BOC GP	391/0	PEARL	450/0
BOOTS CO	226/0	PEARSON	675/5
BPB INDS	300/0	PILKINGTON	250/0
BR COM	305/0	PLESLEY	167/0
BR ATRWAY	175/0	PRUDENTIAL	853/0
BR AEROSP	377/0	RACAL	226/0
BR GAS PP	134/0	RANK HVIS	332/0
B.P.	60/00	RANK ORG	695/0
B.P. NEW	72/0	RECKITT+CO	822/0
BR TELCOM	247/0	REDLAND	425/0
BRITOL	505/4	REED	432/0
BUNZL	169/0	RYL BK SC	370/0
BURMAN OL	500/0	RMC GRP	456/0
BURTON	257/0	REUTERS	534/0
CABLESWIR	248/0	RITZ CORP.	74/62
CADBURYS	262/0	ROLLS ROY	132/0
CAITS VTY	262/0	ROTHMAN B	423/0
COMM INT	322/0	ROTHMAN	460/0
COMS GOLD	860/0	ROYAL INS	405/0
COOKSON	570/0	SAATCHI	435/0
COURTAULD	330/0	SAINSBURY	243/0
DALGETY	297/0	SCOT-NEW	263/0
DEE CP	185/0	SEARS	130/0
DIXONS	193/0	SEDEWICK	200/0
ENG CHINA	413/0	SHELL	995/0
ENTER OIL	325/0	SMITH+NEPH	141/0
FERRANTI	82/0	SMITHS A	290/0
FISONS	264/0	STC	244/0
GEN ACCIO	898/0	STOREN	244/0
GEN ELEC	155/0	SUN ALLIA	932/4
GLAXO	075/0	TARMAC	247/0
GRANADA	332/0	TATELYE	823/0
GLOBE	142/0	TESCO	604/0
GRAND MET	492/0	THORN EMI	165/0
GUS A	116/0	TRAF HSE	327/0
GUARD RYL	957/0	TSB	110/0
GWN	336/0	T + N	191/0
GUINNESS	310/0	TRUSTEE	238/0
HMMERS A	548/0	ULTRAMAR	254/0
HANSON	158/0	UNILEVER	405/0
HAKER SID	480/0	UNIGATE	270/0
HILLSDOWN	301/0	UTD BISC	272/0
ICI	048/0	UTD MNSPR	443/0
INI	205/0	WELLCOM	483/0
		WHITBRI IN	297/0
		WILLIAMS	290/0
		WILLIS FB	218/0
		WIMPEY GE	258/0
		WOOLWORTH	280/0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELECT	368/0	370/0
AMT NEW	259/0	259/0
APV PLC	129/0	129/0
AARONSON	122/0	123/0
AAH HDLG	262/0	261/0
ADISON G	99/0	99/0
ADVEST GP	319/0	318/0
ALEX WRKH	180/0	180/0
ALLD IR B	213/0	215/0
ALLIANCE	814/0	817/0
ALLD COLL	139/0	139/0
ALLD PLAN	56/0	56/0
AMARI PLC	170/0	170/0
AMEC PLC	357/0	358/0
AMER TRUS	118/0	119/0
AMERSHAM	490/0	491/0
ANGIA TV	415/0	413/0
ANISBACHER	67/0	68/0
APP-APP HOL	308/0	308/0
APPLEYARD	390/0	390/0
APRICOT	109/0	110/0
ARMSTRONG	151/0	151/0
ANGLO O'S	393/0	
AQUAS. A.	77/0	78/0
ASHLEY L	122/0	122/0
ATTWOODS	303/0	303/0
AUTO SEC	250/0	251/0
AVIS EUR	331/0	331/0
AVON RUBB	640/0	640/0
BSC INTL	63/4	63/0
BAILL JAP	487/0	488/0
BANKER IT	68/0	68/0
BK OF SCO	567/0	569/0
BARKER DO	147/0	147/0
BART DEV	198/0	200/0
B.WENMILL	167/0	168/0
BEJAM GP	177/0	177/0
BELHAVEN	44/0	45/0
BELLWAY	222/0	223/0
BEMROSE	213/0	213/0
BENLOX HD	47/4	48/0
BINNETT +F	34/0	34/0
BENTALLS	192/0	193/0
BERISFORD	308/0	309/0
BERKELEY	310/0	310/0
BRKLY HAY	25/0	25/4
BLCK LE 2	21/0	21/0
BOASE MAS	283/0	284/0
BOOKING TO	145/0	145/0
BOOKER PL	403/0	402/0
BORTHWICK	48/0	48/0
BOSNOR	382/0	383/0
BORTHORPE	183/0	182/0
BRAMMER	227/0	228/0
BRENT CHE	135/0	137/0
BRENT WCR	344/0	346/0
BRIDON	148/0	149/0
BRITANNIC	013/0	010/0
BR ASSETS	65/4	66/0
BR LIND CO	267/0	267/0
BR VITA	434/0	435/0

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
FT 300 ORD	1460.1	1457.7	1462.8	1373.3
FT 500 SHR	0	1024.7	1026.1	957.6
FT ALL SHR	0	31.17	32.91	87.22
FT GOV SEC	90.68	90.53	90.59	88.49
FT GOV MH	0	242.2	242.5	302.1
FT NINES F	0	453.07	448.17	450.65
FT OIL	0	1733.7	1725.0	1663.6
FT MLD DLR	126.85	124.64	126.01	115.04
FT MLD STG	102.07	103.25	105.39	90.79
FT MLD LDC	112.25	112.32	112.31	99.08

London Stock Market Report

U.K. SHARES SET BELOW HIGHS IN AFTERNOON BUSINESS
LONDON, MARCH 9, REUTER - SHARE PRICES REMAINED BELOW THE MORNING HIGHS AS CONCERN ABOUT STERLING'S CONTINUING STRENGTH AND A MIXED WALL STREET OPENING OVERSHADOWED THIS MORNING'S SPATE OF ENCOURAGING COMPANY RESULTS, DEALERS SAID.
BY 1551 GMT THE FTSE 100 SHARE INDEX WAS UP 2.8 POINTS TO 1,460.1 COMPARED TO THE HIGH OF 1,462.8 REACHED AT 0958 GMT. DEALERS SAID OVERNIGHT GAINS ON WALL STREET AND IN TOKYO HELPED THE EARLY GAINS BUT BUYING HERE QUICKLY RAN OUT OF STEAM.
THE POUND CONTINUED TO RISE TODAY, HITTING SOME LEADING EXPORTERS AND AGGRAVATING RECENT NERVES OVER ITS IMPACT ON U.K. TRADE COMPETITIVENESS.

DEALERS SAID THEY EXPECTED TRADING WOULD REMAIN NERVOUS BUT SLUGGISH AHEAD OF NEXT TUESDAY'S BUDGET. PRIME MINISTER THATCHER'S COMMENTS YESTERDAY, STRESSING KEEPING INFLATION DOWN RATHER THAN CURBING THE POUND'S ADVANCE, HAVE MADE SOME INVESTORS WARY OF A FURTHER PUSH FORWARD BY THE CURRENCY.
ICI WAS DOWN 7P TO 1,048, PARTLY BECAUSE STERLING EDGED UP TO NEAR 3.08 MARKS ON THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF A COOL RESPONSE TO ITS JOINT VENTURE PLANS WITH DU PONT.
ICI AND DU PONT WILL MERGE THEIR EXISTING EUROPEAN AUTOMOTIVE COATINGS BUSINESSES AND WILL EACH HAVE A 50 PCT STAKE IN THE VENTURE WHICH WILL BE LOCATED IN WEST GERMANY.

London Gold

LONDON, MARCH 9, REUTER - GOLD BULLION ENDED A FAIRLY THIN TRADING DAY AT 436.50/437.00 DLRs AN OUNCE, DOWN FRACTIONALLY FROM TUESDAY'S CLOSE OF 437.40/437.90 DLRs.
THE METAL WAS KEPT TO A TIGHT TRADING RANGE FOR WANT OF DIRECTION, ALTHOUGH A NEAR TERM SUPPORT LEVEL OF 435 DLRs CONTINUED TO HOLD, HAVING BEEN TESTED DURING EARLY TRADING.
PROFESSIONALS CONTINUED TO DOMINATE THE LIGHT TRADE SEEN, BUT CONDITIONS WERE SEEN AS NERVOUS WITH FUNDAMENTALS REMAINING FAIRLY WEAK, DEALERS SAID. GOLD WAS SET AT 436.10 AND 436.50 DLRs AT THE RESPECTIVE MORNING/AFTERNOON FIXING SESSIONS AFTER OPENING AT 435.30/435.80.

London Money Market

LONDON, MARCH 9, REUTER - MONEY RATES TRADED IN A NARROWER RANGE THAN ON PREVIOUS DAYS THIS WEEK BUT THE EASIER BIAS WAS MAINTAINED, DESPITE PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY RULING OUT AN INTEREST RATE CUT.
DEALERS SAID THERE WERE STILL A FEW BULLS IN THE MARKET LOOKING FOR AN OFFICIAL INTEREST RATE CUT IN THE NEAR TERM, THOUGH NOT BEFORE NEXT TUESDAY'S BUDGET.
HOWEVER, MOST DEALERS FELT THE TONE SHOULD MORE PROPERLY BE DESCRIBED AS "LESS BEARISH" THAN ACTIVELY BULLISH, SINCE THE CONTINUED STRENGTH OF STERLING WOULD APPEAR TO RULE OUT THE RATE INCREASE WHICH LOOKED PROBABLE AFTER RECENT U.K. ECONOMIC DATA.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	OPEN
DLR 1.8425/35	1.8450/60	1.6685/95	5.6500/50	
STG 1.6652/6732	3.068/082	10.405/0780	10.4120/4250	
DMK 5.649/661	10.405/623	338.35/99	29.45/61	
FFR 1.3787/3797	2.5399/5431	82.57/68	24.37/41	
HFL 1.8745	3.4535	112.25	33.16	
ECU 1.24327	0.673191	2.07278	7.01942	
SDR 1.37153	0.748243	2.29430	7.76972	
YEN 128.00/10	235.84/236.16			
SDR RATES	08/03/88	OTHERS	09/03/1988	

NEW YORK

NAME	OPEN	MID-DAY
A BSCH COM	32 3/2	32 1/2
ATLANTIC R	76 1/2	76 1/2
AAR CORP	22 1/2	22 1/2
AETNA LIFE	47 1/2	47 1/2
ALASKA AIR	16 1/2	17 1/2
ALCAN ALUM	29 1/2	29 1/2
ALCO STAND	24 1/2	24 1/2
AM CYANAMID	53 1/2	53 1/2
AM ELET PM	28 1/2	28 1/2
AM HON PRO	81 1/2	81 1/2
AM HON PRO	79 1/2	79 1/2
AM STANARD	73 1/2	73 1/2
AM STORES	56 1/2	55 1/2
AM TEL-TEL	28 1/2	28 1/2
AMOCO CORP	74 1/2	74 1/2
AMP INC	51 1/2	51 1/2
AMPCO PITT	14 1/2	14 1/2
AMR GEN CO	35 1/2	35 1/2
AMERADA H	30 1/2	29 1/2
ANTHEM ELE	12 1/2	12 1/2
APACHE CP	8 1/2	7 1/2
APACHE PET	3 1/2	3 1/2
ARCO INC	11 1/2	12 1/2
ASARCO INC	24 1/2	24 1/2
ASHLAND OIL	63 1/2	63 1/2
ATLS CORP	39 1/2	38 1/2
AVERTY INC	24 1/2	24 1/2
AVNET INC	26 1/2	26 1/2
AVON PRODS	24 1/2	23 1/2
BELL ATLAN	69 1/2	69 1/2
BCE INC	31 1/2	31 1/2
BELL-HOW	62 1/2	62 1/2
HEIL CURTIS	33 1/2	33 1/2
HELM-PAYNE	24 1/2	24 1/2
HERCULES	53 1/2	53 1/2
HESSON	0	0
HEIL-PACK	63 1/2	62 1/2
HEXCEL CP	44 1/2	44 1/2
HILLENBRND	30 1/2	30 1/2
HILTN HTLS	89 1/2	89 1/2
HITACHI	107 1/2	105 1/2
HMTKE HIN	16 1/2	16 1/2
HOME DEPOT	23 1/2	23 1/2
HOMER FED S	25 1/2	25 1/2
HOMER MOTR	129 1/2	127 1/2
HOMETWELL	66 1/2	66 1/2
HOUGHTON H	33 1/2	33 1/2
HOUSTON IN	30 1/2	30 1/2
HUGHES SUP	26 1/2	27 1/2
HUMANA INC	24 1/2	24 1/2
HUTTON EF	30 1/2	30 1/2
IBM	117 1/2	117 1/2
IC INDUSTR	36 1/2	36 1/2
ICN PHARMA	7 1/2	7 1/2
ILL PHR CO	22 1/2	22 1/2
INDCO LTD	23 1/2	23 1/2
INGRESS-LA	37 1/2	37 1/2
INTL JENSEN	48 1/2	48 1/2
JOHNSON-J	84 1/2	84 1/2
K HART CP	35 1/2	35 1/2
KALISER ALM	12 1/2	11 1/2
KERR MCGEE	37 1/2	36 1/2
KEYSTONE	18 1/2	18 1/2
KIDDE INC	0	0
KIMB-CLARK	59 1/2	59 1/2
KRAH R D AI	18 1/2	18 1/2
KRAFT INC	55 1/2	55 1/2
KROGER CP	29 1/2	29 1/2
LEAR PETRL	2 1/2	2 1/2
LEHMAN	12 1/2	12 1/2
LEHMAN	18 1/2	18 1/2
LILLY EL	77 1/2	77 1/2
LINDOLM NC	948 1/2	948 1/2
LITTON IND	84 1/2	84 1/2
LOCKHEED	45 1/2	45 1/2
LOCCITE CP	37 1/2	37 1/2
LOEWS CORP	75 1/2	75 1/2
LOW-METTEL	16 1/2	16 1/2
LOWE STAR	29 1/2	29 1/2
LOWES	19 1/2	19 1/2
MGT ASSN	3 1/2	3 1/2
M HARRIETT	46 1/2	46 1/2
MA COM INC	10 1/2	10 1/2
MACHILLAN	61 1/2	61 1/2
MANHATTAN	17 1/2	18 1/2
MANOR CARE	13 1/2	13 1/2
MANU HANOV	26 1/2	26 1/2
MARRIOTT	31 1/2	31 1/2
MASCO CORP	26 1/2	26 1/2
MATTEL INC	200/0	195/6
MCA INCORP	44 1/2	44 1/2
MCDONALDS	47 1/2	47 1/2
MCDONNELL	63 1/2	63 1/2
MCGRAW-HILL	61 1/2	60 1/2
MEAD	39 1/2	39 1/2
MEERCK - CO	164/0	164/2
MERIDITH	31 1/2	31 1/2
MERRILL LY	25 1/2	25 1/2
MESA OFFSH	1 1/2	1 1/2
MOBIL OIL	43 1/2	43 1/2
MORAN DAT	0	0
MORISANTO	88 1/2	88 1/2
MORGAN JAP	35 1/2	35 1/2
MORT THIO	45 1/2	45 1/2
MOTOROLA	49 1/2	49 1/2

Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
AUSTRALIA	261.5	262.9	257.5	259.3
AUSTRIA	201.9	201.5	200.7	215.4
BELGIUM	367.9	367.1	361.5	260.2
CANADA	364.1	366.1	358.0	350.7
DENMARK	373.5	376.1	376.4	336.6
FRANCE	303.5	305.8	307.2	288.5
GERMANY	169.7	169.3	169.1	156.6
HONG KONG	1785.1	1766.4	1765.8	1644.3
FINLAND	101.5	101.8	101.8	
ITALY	389.3	381.5	382.4	377.4
JAPAN	1234.2	1244.3	1244.1	1022.3
NETHERLANDS	238.0	243.3	235.6	215.9
NEW ZEAL	89.7	89.3	88.6	
NORWAY	428.2	434.2	438.5	392.4
SPAIN	517.2	516.5	518.4	473.1
SWEDEN	238.8	239.2	236.5	209.5

Debt talks between Egypt and Western creditors deadlocked

Cairo heading for another exchange crisis

CAIRO, March 9, (Reuters): Debt rescheduling talks between Egypt and a series of key Western creditors have run into deadlock, raising fears President Hosni Mubarak's government is heading for another foreign exchange crisis.

Western diplomats and bankers say failure to seal agreement to stretch out loan repayments will jeopardise a key plank in Cairo's strategy of reducing the burden of an estimated \$43.9 billion in foreign debt, the second largest in the Arab world.

"It looked as though Egypt had won a vital breathing space on its foreign debt," said one senior banker. "But it is beginning to look like it is squandering the chance."

Step

Egypt took a major step towards reforming its subsidy-ridden economy last May when it agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) a \$325 million credit deal which opened the door for a desperately needed 10-year rescheduling of debt to Western governments.

But diplomats say the IMF

programme has run into an impasse as economic targets are missed. A fund team headed by Middle East director Abdel-Shakour Shaalan is due in Cairo at the end of this week for new talks.

And the framework accord to reschedule debt with 18 governments grouped under the Paris Club of creditors has been only a partial success, with just five major countries — including the United States and France — so far agreeing detailed terms for less than half the \$12 billion of loans at stake.

Scheme

Diplomats said that was holding up an extra \$500 million of World Bank credits to Egypt and blocking the flow of new Western government loans and trade guarantees.

A long-promised scheme to clear up an estimated \$240 million of arrears on supplier credits made by banks to state-owned companies has also been held up, while bankers complain the government has yet to tackle the problem of up to \$4 billion in arrears owed by the private sector.

The rescheduling strategy is crucial to preserve Egypt's scarce hard currency for essential commodities. Assuming all Paris Club negotiations can be concluded, bankers calculate debt repayments this year will fall to \$2.4 billion from 2.6 billion in 1987.

Rates

But Egypt's huge debt, second among Arab states to Iraq, has become embroiled in world politics as Mubarak — well aware harsh economic measures have led to rioting in the past — pleads that Cairo deserves lenient treatment from its Western allies.

And diplomats say it is exactly on this point the series of negotiations on Paris Club debt have run into deadlock. Leading the camp arguing that Egypt's key role in Middle East politics makes it worthy of "special case" treatment are Washington and Paris.

The European Economic Community Commissioner for Mediterranean relations, Claude Cheysson, also told reporters in Cairo earlier this week: "There is

a limit to what you can impose on the (Egyptian) people."

The French government has already agreed to reschedule 10 billion francs (\$1.75 billion) of debt falling due to June 30, 1988 at a rate of just 7/20 percentage points over London Interbank Offered Rates (Libor), a commonly used reference level for international interest rates.

Washington settled on a margin of 9/20 for \$1.7 billion of debt, while bankers say deals with Spain for \$430 million, West Germany for 500 million and Austria for 190 million have been agreed on favourable terms.

But other nations, including Britain, Australia, Canada, Sweden and Norway, have dug in their heels, baulking at the French interest rate concession and demanding Cairo pay at least 1/2 point interest margin — more in line with other country reschedulings.

"It was made very clear to Egypt at the Paris Club last year that debt would be rescheduled on commercial rates," said one senior Western diplomat. "We do not want to see the Paris Club turned into a forum for back-

door aid."

Although the disagreement is over a minor interest rate margin, it has become a matter of principle for the Egyptian government which has allowed a series of deadlines for wrapping up the complete Paris Club package to slip.

Problems

Further delay could cause serious problems since Western government loans falling due from July 1 are not covered by last year's outline agreement and Cairo will almost certainly have to seek a further rescheduling for the next 12 to 18 months.

"But that will be refused point blank if Cairo has not managed to put the first package to bed," said one diplomat closely involved in talks.

Other diplomats are less pessimistic. Australian ambassador Ian Hutchens, commenting on negotiations over 400 million Australian dollars (\$290 million) of debt, told Reuters:

"We are hopeful agreement can be reached in a second round of negotiations at the end of March."

Gold prices steady

Sterling marks time

LONDON, March 9, (Reuters): Britain's soaring pound sterling paused today as investors took time to consider its next move and what it might do to the value of other currencies, dealers said. Shares were firm and gold was steady.

For now, dealers said, the pound would have more effect on setting the tone for the dollar than the results of America's "Super-Tuesday" series of 20 state presidential primary polls.

London's FTSE index of 100 blue chip shares opened 8.2 points higher at 1,823.2 and was virtually unchanged by late morning.

Worried

In Tokyo, the world's biggest stock market, the 225-share Nikkei index clawed back most of its 150-point fall yesterday to close 139.66 points ahead on 25,605.39.

Investors for the moment seemed more worried about the direction of international flows of money than the 1988 US presidential campaign, dealers said.

Some were heartened when Missouri congressman Richard Gephardt won only his home state's Democratic primary. They feared that he, if elected, would push protectionist laws to cut imports to the United States.

But Vice-President George Bush's near-sweep of the

Republican primaries, after campaigning on a programme of continuing the Reagan administration's economic policies, did not seem to excite investors, dealers said.

"There is not much happening in the dollar, per se. Everything depends on the pound," a Frankfurt trader said.

Sagged

The dollar, which has sagged against most other currencies as the pound jumped seven pence and seven cents over the past two days, edged slightly higher this morning.

It gained half a pfennig and a quarter yen to trade near 1.67 West German marks and 128 yen. The pound eased half a pence and 0.75 cents to around 3.07 marks and \$1.8350.

Gold was steady, with the price of bullion fixed in London this morning at \$436.10 an ounce, down 25 cents from last afternoon fix.

Effort

Some dealers think the money that poured into high interest rate British bank accounts and bonds — a flow that sent the pound soaring — may be drying up. "We're very near the end of the road for the time being," said a Frankfurt currency trader.

A strong pound could pose big problems for British investors' fear. They worry that it could cut British companies'

export sales and profits.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is worried about the effect of a concerted government effort to cap the pound's rise. She told parliament yesterday Britain would not cut interest rates or keep selling large amounts of pounds to stem the currency's gains for fear of rekindling inflation.

But a series of British company reports that their profits were strong encouraged some investors.

In Tokyo, where share prices rose, a broker at Nomura Securities Co Ltd, in Tokyo said: "Investors are jumping in to buy at any opportunity."

Concern that Tokyo, Japan's special money trusts, would dump shares ahead of the end of their financial year on March 31 seems to have evaporated, dealers said.

In Frankfurt, the *Börsen-Zeitung* 30-share index rose 2.47 points to open at 291.81.

The Paris Bourse indicator was up 0.99 per cent, Amsterdam's CBS all share index rose 0.6 points to 81.7, and the all share Swiss index rose 8.2 points to 857.1.

Sydney's all-ordinary index jumped 24.6 points to 1,341, its 1988 high. Hong Kong's Seng index gained 58.43 points to 2,551.76. Singapore shares firmed.

Asian economies set to grow stronger

SINGAPORE, March 9, (Xinhua): Asian economies have sufficient domestic or regional resilience to avoid economic contraction and will emerge from the next two testing years stronger and ever more competitive, said an investment house here.

In its latest monthly review, Merrill Lynch Singapore made the bullish forecast based on the region's track record of outperforming the rest of the world during world economic slumps.

It said that between 1971 and 1986, a period with three major downturns, Asian economies were enjoying annual export growth of 18 per cent in nominal terms, compared with the world average of 13.7 per cent.

Asian economies will avoid any serious lag effect from the US recession not only because of their history of maintaining positive growth, but also because they tend to expand their share of world exports during downturns, it said.

It is important that Asian economies are "structurally sounder" now than they were during the 1982 downturn, it said, adding that fundamental economic problems such as high inflation, government and external payments deficits, and rigid foreign investment policies, have been resolved over the last three to five years.

Moreover, it said, as the appreciation of the Japanese yen is forcing manufacturing to relocate offshore in southeast Asia, Asian economies are benefitting handsomely.

Meanwhile, it added, Japan's booming domestic demand has created a growing market for products and services from other Asian countries and regions.

Bangladesh GDP growth rate estimated at 2 pc

DHAKA, March 9, (Xinhua): The GDP growth rate of Bangladesh in the current fiscal year ending June 30 is estimated to be close to two per cent, according to the latest World Bank report on Bangladesh economy.

The growth rate will fall far behind the official target of five per cent of economic growth this fiscal year.

The World Bank report assessed that value added in the country's agriculture will decline in the current fiscal year somewhat compared with that of the last fiscal year due to lower production of jute, the country's major cash crop.

The report estimated the total foodgrain production of the current fiscal year may reach last year's level of 16.5 million tons, noting that the government has helped the farmers overcome the impact of the flood by providing loans to them and undertaking an extensive replanting programme.

The report indicated that the industrial production of the country in the current fiscal year is likely to grow by only one to two per cent since the major industrial subsectors such as textile, jute, basic metals and food processing continue to be affected by sluggish demand.

Regarding the impact of the recent political unrest on the country's economy, the report said that strikes and work stoppages "do not seem to have affected the production of export-oriented industries as much as feared earlier."

Syrian farms lead battle for self-sufficiency

DAMASCUS, March 9, (Reuters): To be a Syrian housewife you need to be street-wise — to know where and when to look for coffee, milk powder, toilet paper or a special medicine.

That was the assessment of a Western diplomat, commenting on occasional shortages of some household items in Damascus. Where to shop, and how much to pay, are hotly-debated topics among ordinary people here.

Diplomats' estimates of the rate of inflation vary between 40 and 80 per cent over the past year, and they say the real value of wages has fallen in the same period.

Agriculture Minister Mohammed Ghabbass has a broader perspective than the housewife or shopkeeper.

Shortages

He acknowledged shortages but said they were a small price to pay in Syria's battle for self-sufficiency in food.

"I'm sure the housewife lacks for nothing essential," he told Reuters. "The shortages don't involve necessities."

Agriculture takes second place only to defence in the government's order of priorities, he said.

Ghabbass attributed some of the problems affecting the economy to the need to achieve strategic parity with Israel — the central theme of President Hafez Al Assad's 18-year-old rule.

Diplomats say Syria owes Moscow some \$14 billion, mainly for military equipment including modern T-80 tanks, MiG-29 fighters and medium-range ground-to-ground missiles.

They estimate that up to half of Syria's foreign exchange is spent on food imports, despite a recent clampdown on buying goods abroad to save hard currency and promote local production of essential commodities.

Asked about the cuts, Ghabbass said his government was trying to curtail imports of non-essential goods.

Supplies of fertiliser and farm machinery were adequate but large amounts of wheat had to be bought overseas.

Rainfall was an important factor. When we have good rain, we are self-sufficient in wheat," he said.

Blinding rain squalls sweeping Al Ghouta state dairy farm about 12 km (eight miles) east of Damascus failed to deter 250 cows from giving their 3.2 tons of milk a day.

On another model state farm nearby, workers were packing tomatoes for export to Europe and the Gulf.

"We produce a surplus of fruit and vegetables and we export cotton," Ghabbass said. "We are self-sufficient in citrus fruit."

Productivity

The minister, who has held cabinet position since 1976, gave some examples of his government's progress.

Irrigated land increased from 450,000 hectares (1.12 million acres) in 1970 to 660,000 (1.63 million acres) in 1987.

The number of olive trees rose from 15 million in 1963 — when the Baath Party seized power — to 35 million last year, and an additional four or five million

would be planted in 1988.

Productivity had also improved, he said.

In 1963, an average 1,038 kg (2,288 lbs) of cotton were produced from each hectare (2.5 acres) under cultivation.

This rose to 2,727 kg (6,000 lbs) in 1987.

Syria produced 1.5 billion eggs last year, up from 274 million in 1970 and 259 million in 1983.

Of the land available for farming, 98 per cent was privately cultivated and only two per cent state-owned.

Ghabbass said his ministry helped farmers in both public and private sectors with advice, training and soft loans.

To encourage Syrians to move back to the land from the cities, the government had raised the producer's price of wheat, barley, cotton and sugarbeet.

Diplomats say rural life has improved dramatically in recent years, with completion of village electrification and provision of primary education.

"We have made great strides, but there is still a lot to do," Ghabbass said.

Seven non-Opec states hold talks on slumping oil market

LONDON, March 9, (Reuters): Officials of several oil-producing nations outside the Opec organisation met in London today to discuss the sagging price of oil, a Mexican official said.

They met as more oil traders speculated that efforts by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to prop up the price of oil could be crumbling.

Opec's special pricing committee is considering calling a meeting of its own.

Technical

Energy Minister Subroto of Opec member Indonesia warned in Jakarta today that the organisation would either have to cut production or let prices fall on glutted oil world markets.

Today's talks in London were called by Egyptian Oil Minister Abdel Hadi Kandeel, who said yesterday the purpose was to "find a way to boost the oil market.... and so stop the market sliding."

Mario Lopez Espinosa, financial counsellor to the Mexican

embassy in London, said officials from China, Malaysia, Angola, Oman, Egypt, Colombia and Mexico were attending what he called a private technical meeting at the embassy. He had no information on whether officials from the Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, attended.

Norway declined an invitation to attend and Britain, the other major north sea producer, was not invited.

Oil prices have dropped by about \$1.70 a barrel over the past two weeks, with Brent crude oil from the North Sea now selling for around \$14 a barrel.

Dealers said a glut of oil and discounts offered by Opec members were depressing prices.

In Tokyo, speculation mounted on whether Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, would kick away one of remaining props to the fragile market and start offering price cuts to Japanese customers.

Meanwhile, Opec's five price committee members are currently discussing whether to meet to

take action to reverse the slide.

The committee is composed of Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Nigeria and Venezuela, and is empowered to call an emergency Opec meeting.

In Jakarta, Subroto said Opec would either have to cut output or abandon its \$18 a barrel reference price. It should have a clear idea of what it wants to do before convening the price committee, he added.

"Indonesia has agreed that such a meeting be held, but first there should be preliminary talks among the ministers," he said.

Nigeria, however, was reluctant to call a meeting, a senior energy ministry official said in Lagos.

"Our attitude is that the market should be observed for some time. We should not allow ourselves to be stamped into a meeting because that will be a sign of weakness," he said. "We can cause things to happen by meeting, but this will boomerang if we are unable to agree on any measure."

British firm to buy Brooks Brothers

LONDON, March 9, (UPI): Marks and Spencer, the major British clothing and food store chain, announced yesterday it has signed an agreement to buy the US men's store Brooks Brothers for \$770 million.

Completion of the transaction is contingent on government approval and on the Toronto-based Campeau Corporation, the owner of Brooks Brothers, acquiring Federated Department Stores Inc.

Marks and Spencer agreed to pay \$720 million for Brooks Brothers and an additional \$50 million for an agreement by Campeau that none of Campeau's affiliates will compete against Brooks Brothers by setting up a speciality newsstand chain in North America or Japan for five years.

Stores

Brooks Brothers has 47 stores in the United States and 12 in Japan.

The agreement includes the following preferential rights: — Campeau for five years will grant Marks and Spencer any preferential rights to sites in new and existing malls owned or controlled by Campeau Corporation.

— If Marks and Spencer decides to develop a speciality food operation in the United States similar to that in Britain, it will have an inclusive right for three years to rent space at commercial rates in all Campeau-owned department stores that do not already sell foods.

The board of Marks and Spencer said it was confident that, if it acquires Brooks Brothers, it will achieve an outstanding strategic platform for the company to expand internationally in North America and the Far East.

Free-trade accord

RIYADH, March 9, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia and Tunisia signed a free-trade agreement here today eliminating all import tariffs between them.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said all duties on agricultural, industrial and animal products would disappear.

It said the agreement amended a 24-year-old "which needed to be modified to meet current development plans."

Sabena still hopes for European mega airline

BRUSSELS, March 9, (Reuters): Belgian national airline Sabena said yesterday it is still looking for partners to form a so-called "mega-carrier" to cope with more competition as the European Economic Community (EEC) eliminates organisation agreements.

Sabena, hurt by stiff competition, especially for freight, had a difficult year in 1987, with parent company net profits down 52 per cent to 70.4 million francs (\$2 million), President Carlos van Rafeleghem told a news conference.

Van Rafeleghem said Sabena had discussions with Air France, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Lufthansa of West Germany and Swissair, and was currently talking with Luxair of Luxembourg.

"We would prefer to have several spouses.... we hope the company that will be set up will make it the biggest in Europe," Van Rafeleghem said.

Talks

Sabena's talks about joining forces with Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) reached a stalemate last June.

Van Rafeleghem said that while no talks are now in progress, he had received clear indications through intermediaries that SAS had now changed its attitude.

"The ball is still in their camp," he added.

On another front, Van Rafeleghem said Sabena was close to agreeing with one of the six biggest US airlines to operate services jointly on some routes.

Sabena sources said the carrier involved was American Airlines, Delta Airlines or Trans World Airlines. Van Rafeleghem stressed that, unlike his ambitions for a European link-up, the deal would not involve integrating the two airlines.

Cadmium prices soar

LONDON, March 9, (Reuters): Cadmium prices jumped again today as buyers scrambled to snap up a metal that, because of a boom in rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries, suddenly seems to have become scarce, traders said.

Cadmium, a toxic metal also used in pigments and metal processing, soared to record prices of more than \$9 a pound. Its previous record was \$8.20, hit on Monday when prices jumped by \$1 in just a few hours.

A year ago cadmium traded at less than \$1 a pound as companies, under pressure from environmentalists worried about the metal's high toxicity, cut back its use in plating metal and making pigments. But since then nickel-cadmium battery sales have

taken off.

US and Eastern European business were especially big buyers this week, while European traders were also scrambling for metal to fill orders for deliveries in March and April.

Traders who had postponed buying, hoping the price would ease, are now especially big buyers. Some dealers said this week already affecting cadmium prices and supplies for shipments in May and June.

Meanwhile, production of cadmium, a by-product of zinc, has been disrupted by an explosion at a Canadian refinery and by strikes in Mexico and Italy. A number of producers elsewhere have recently been mining ores with lower cadmium contents.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 9, (Reuters): Shares closed sharply higher with strong demand for industrial stocks spilling in to most sectors. The All Ordinaries index climbed 24.6 points to its highest close for the year at 1,341.0.

TOKYO: The market closed higher in robust trade on renewed aggressive buying of large capital shares after yesterday's decline. The Nikkei index rose 139.66 points, 0.55 per cent, to 25,605.39.

HONG KONG: Strong buying interest pushed prices up sharply, sending the Hang Seng index up 58.43 points to 2,551.76, its highest since the October stock market crash.

SINGAPORE: Prices closed firmer across the board on renewed buying interest and bargain hunting, buoyed by gains in New York and Tokyo. The Straits Times industrial index rose 14.74 to 932.33.

BOMBAY: Prices closed higher on wide-spread short covering set off by an exchange decision to relax forward trading curbs from Friday.

FRANKFURT: Prices ended mostly firmer but near the day's worst levels, supported by New York and Tokyo. The Commerz-

bank index calculated at mid-session rose 1.3 to 1,396.1.

ZURICH: Shares closed higher in active trading in response to the firmer close on Wall Street and the dollar's slight advance. The all-share index rose 11.3 points to 860.2.

PARIS: Shares extended gains in late trading to close higher across a broad front. The 50-share Bourse indicator posted a final 2.40 per cent rise.

LONDON: Shares were below early highs amid concern about sterling and a mixed wall street opening. By 1500 GMT the FTSE-100 index was up 2.8 points at 1,817.8.

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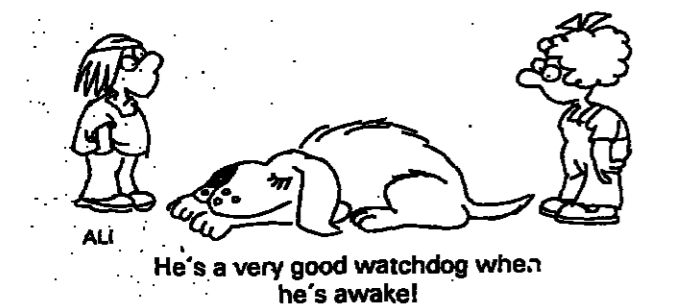
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Handwritten signature and text in Arabic script.

Aunt Barbarg

Arwa Shabbir (left) celebrated her fifth birthday last week and Zereen Aziz will celebrate her first birthday on Sunday, March 13. Happy birthday, Arwa and Zereen, from your family and friends.



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A S B C O P H E L I A S B T C X L E
R E G A N O R E B O U F A N T O N Y
D T A L H T F A G T N B R J N R D S
E H R I L E H A U C O A D N A R I M
S E B B U L L R L R Y L O T S I P O
D M S A O M B E E S O A L O I V M S
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P U C K O A E T I T A N I A L B Q S
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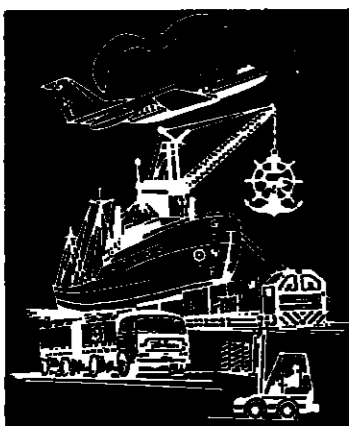
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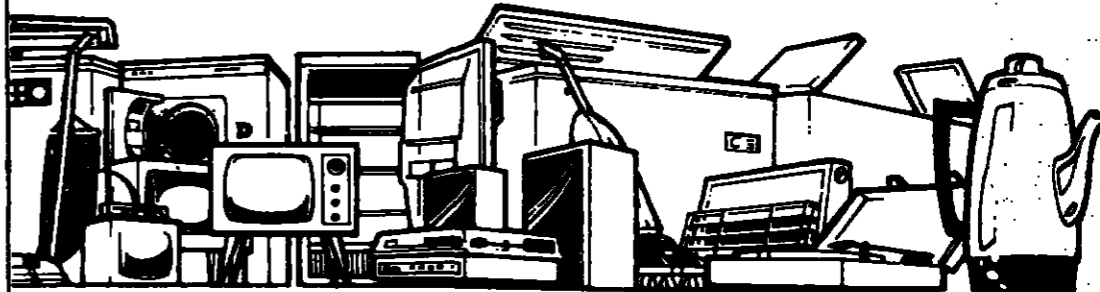
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SPORTS

CONNORS AND NYSTROM UPSET

Becker outlasts Sanchez again

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida, March 9 (UPI): Fourth seed Boris Becker beat Emilio Sanchez for the second time in three days yesterday, ousting the Spaniard, 7-6 (9-7), 6-4 in the opening round of the \$415,000 Du Pont Classic.

In other games, No 8 Andre Agassi overcame fellow American Jimmy Arias, third seed Jimmy Connors fell to power-serving David Pate, and Dan Cassidy of Atlanta upset seventh-seeded Joakim Nystrom.

Several

On Sunday, Becker won a rugged four-set final against Sanchez at the Champion's Cup in Indian Wells, California. Yesterday, Sanchez consistently chased down Becker's smashes and volleys, often forcing the powerful two-time Wimbledon champion to hit several extra shots to finish seemingly easy points.

After dropping his serve in the fifth game of the opening set, Becker broke back in the eighth game and both players held service until the tiebreaker. Both players traded points until Sanchez reached set point at 6-5. But Becker saved it and went on to capture the tiebreaker 9-7.

Becker scored the only service break of the second set in game 5, and after missing two match points on Sanchez' serve at 5-3, served out the match at love in



Becker: two consecutive wins over Sanchez

the next game. Becker said beating Sanchez on hard courts "was a matter of keeping it together mentally, holding my service games and sooner or later I'm going to break him."

In a later match, Agassi won a duel of powerful forehands against Arias, who was leading 4-3 with a service break in the first set before Agassi swept the last

three games to take the set. The turning point of the match came in the seventh game of the second set with Arias holding two break points on Agassi's serve. Agassi, 17, pulled out the game with the help of a disputed line call, and then broke Arias in the next game with a blistering two-handed backhand passing shot.

"A couple of years ago, you

could outlast him by playing fairly well and waiting for him to hit a bad streak," Arias said. "Andre has gotten so much faster in the last four months."

Agassi, who has risen to No 15 in the world, agreed that speed on the court was a big factor in his improvement, and said he'd recently undertaken an extensive weight training programme on his legs.

Connors appeared headed for an easy victory against Pate, winning the first set 6-3 and gaining an early advantage in the second set. Pate rallied to take the match 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Nystrom of Sweden, playing his first match since November, fell to Cassidy, 6-0, 7-6 (7-5).

In other matches, Jay Berger defeated Yugoslavia's Bruno Oresar, 7-5, 6-2; Mats Wilander of Sweden beat Frenchman Thierry Tulasne 6-2, 6-3; Amos Mansdorf crushed Austrian Thomas Muster 6-3, 6-2; and Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia downed Diego Perez of Uruguay, 6-3, 6-2.

"My serve has really been up and down," said Pate, who collected 12 aces. "But once I got the wind behind me, it seemed to get a little better and I gained more confidence in it as the match progressed."

"It's real tough to play someone you used to ball-boy for," Pate said. "I used to idolise

him when I was younger and it was a big hurdle for me to beat him."

A lengthy layoff may have been the key factor in Nystrom's upset loss to Cassidy, a late entrant. Cassidy, entered the main draw despite losing in the qualifying tournament when veteran Eliot Teltscher withdrew because of illness.

Nystrom, 25, had not played competitively since November and the effects of the inactivity showed as he dropped the opening set at love. The Swedish star's game seemed to pick up in the second set as he broke Cassidy in the fourth game and eventually served for the set at 5-3. But Cassidy, 26, broke back at that juncture and then clinched the match by taking the last two points of the tiebreaker.

"When he's playing well he's very tough to pass," said Nystrom. "I haven't played a match in three months and I was very nervous. I should have won the second set. I just need to play a lot of matches right now."

"I've played him pretty close twice before," said Cassidy, who came into the match ranked 119th in the world compared to Nystrom's ranking of No. 17. "I knew if I came in, he might miss some passing shots. I was completely in the zone, and if you can't win when you're in the zone you're in trouble."



Evert: crushed Seles

Graf and Evert move into third round

BOCA RATON, Fla., March 9 (Reuters): Top seed Steffi Graf breezed through her second round match against American Lisa Bonder in 46 minutes, while second seed Chris Evert ended the debut of 14-year-old Monica Seles of Yugoslavia at the \$300,000 Florida tennis tournament yesterday.

Third-seeded American Pam Shriver also needed just 46 minutes as she gave up just one game in each set to West German Wiltrud Probst and fifth seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia sailed past Argentine Patricia Tarabini 6-2, 6-1.

Faulted

Sixth seed Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany double faulted on match point to lose a second round serve and volley duel to Gigi Fernandez of Puerto Rico 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.

Evert had no trouble ousting Seles 6-2, 6-1. The young Yugoslav was impressive in her professional debut on Monday as she eliminated 31st-ranked Canadian Helen Kelesi.

The third-ranked Evert, play-

ing her first match in five weeks, repeatedly outallied the 14-year-old, who hits with two hands on backhand and forehand groundstrokes.

Seles did not hold her serve once but impressed Evert with her tenacious play.

"I was very impressed. She moves well from side to side and she times the ball well," Evert said.

Graf, the defending champion and world number one, crushed Bonder 6-1, 6-1 in her opening match after receiving a first round bye.

Graf, who was not in top form despite winning in San Antonio last week, seemed much happier with her play here.

Powerful

"I'm back to my good tennis after playing bad last week," said Graf, who used her powerful forehand groundstroke to keep the 56th-ranked Bonder out of position the entire match.

The 18-year-old West German allowed Bonder to hold serve once in each set and never lost her own serve.

Alboreto leads way on 2nd day of tyre tests

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, March 9 (AP): Ferrari continued to dominate tyre tests for Formula One teams yesterday, with Italy's Michele Alboreto setting the fastest lap for the second straight day.

Alboreto, in the new Ferrari turbo, had a best lap of 1 minute, 30.21 seconds around the 3.125-mile course at Nelson Piquet race track. 39 seconds faster than his time the previous day.

But the big surprise of the day was the excellent time of the Benetton-Ford driven by Thierry Boutsen of Belgium. Boutsen got the second-fastest time with a 1:30.81, even though his aspirated engine has less horsepower than the turbos.

"The car already is very fast. The only real problem is the vibration from the engine," Boutsen said, adding that the team has broken five radiators and lost several wing mirrors because of the vibration problem.

Gerhard Berger of Austria was third in the other Ferrari, as he spend most of the day trying out a new valve turbo cars must use to limit the engine's power. He said the valve didn't work well and probably cost him 1 second per lap.

Three-time world champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil blew an engine when he missed a gear change in the new Lotus-Honda but still set fourth best time.

New Zealand agrees to multi-nation America's Cup

SYDNEY, March 9, (Reuters): New Zealand's America's Cup yacht challenge syndicates said today it agreed to participate in a multi-nation elimination series starting in San Diego on February 1, 1989.

Syndicate chairman Michael Fay said in a statement released here the America's Cup match would then start on May 1, 1989, also in San Diego, California.

"All yachts competing, including the defending yacht from the San Diego Yacht Club, would be single-masted, monohulls, not more than 90 foot on the load waterline," Fay said.

Follows

Fay's move to break the long logjam surrounding the world's most important yachting trophy follows the San Diego Yacht Club's last-minute decision in late February to accept other challengers to race off California this September.

San Diego issued the invitation in the New York Supreme Court, where it was facing charges from British millionaire yachtsman Peter de Savary that it had violated the Cup's deed of gift by stopping countries other than New Zealand from challenging for the Cup.

Fay initially called the offer too little, too late as no other syndicate would have had time to build a contender.

The millionaire merchant banker also criticised San Diego's decision to race in a multihull, thought to be faster than a monohull, off San Pedro Bay, California, where the winds are likely to favour multihulls.

But today Fay said he had agreed to the San Diego offer in an attempt to preserve the spirit of the America's Cup.

"New Zealand wants to settle the America's Cup on the water," Fay said. "As true sportsmen, the Kiwis have always wanted this match to be multi-national, and have now presented to San Diego the means of accomplishing this objective."

Tradition

"We hope that the San Diego Yacht Club will now deal with this matter in the true tradition and spirit of the America's Cup and embrace this opportunity," Fay said.

The San Diego Yacht Club only agreed to allow other countries to participate when they knew it was impossible for anyone else to be there," Fay said.

"It's time for the interests of yachtsmen around the world to prevail over the private and selfish interests of San Francisco."

"Accordingly, in a letter sent to Justice Ciparick (of the supreme court) today we have stated that we agree to participate in a multi-national challenge elimination series starting in San Diego on February 1, 1989, with the America's Cup match commencing on May 1, 1989, in San Diego."

NBA ROUNDUP

Portland overcome Dallas

NEW YORK, March 9, (AP): Jerome Kersey scored 33 points and Clyde Drexler had 31 last night as the Portland Trail Blazers extended their winning streak to six games by holding off the Dallas Mavericks 112-110.

Dallas had a chance to send the game into overtime but Rolando Blackman missed on a drive to the basket with two seconds left. Portland gave the Mavericks a chance to tie by missing three of four free throws in the final 17 seconds after Mark Aguirre hit a 3-pointer with 18 seconds left.

In other National Basketball Association games, Indiana beat Detroit 117-104. Milwaukee knocked down San Antonio 119-101. Atlanta eclipsed Phoenix 143-113. Seattle nipped Golden State 121-116 and Houston beat Denver 113-103.

Pacers 117, Pistons 104

Steve Stipanovich and Reggie Miller each scored 22 points as Indiana snapped a four-game losing streak and beat Central Division-leading Detroit 117-104. Vern Fleming added 18 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds as the Pacers stopped the Pistons' seven-game winning streak.

Bucks 119, Spurs 101

Terry Cummings scored 27 points and Randy Breuer added 23 to lead Milwaukee to a 119-101 victory over San Antonio, giving the Bucks their ninth victory in 12 games. Alvin Robertson led the Spurs with 23 points and Mike Mitchell added 21.

Hawks 143, Suns 113

Dominique Wilkins, the NBA's No. 2 scorer, shot 41 points and five other Hawks scored in double figures as Atlanta snapped a three-game losing streak with a 143-113 romp over the Phoenix Suns.

Rockets 113, Nuggets 103

Sleepy Floyd's follow shot broke an 89-89 tie with seven minutes remaining and sparked a 9-1 spurt that led the Houston Rockets to a 113-103 victory over the Denver Nuggets. Akeem Olatunji led the Rockets with 25 points and 14 rebounds. Danny Schayes had 25 points for Denver.

Supersonics 121, Warriors 116

Derrick McKey hit a tie-breaking layup with 36 seconds remaining in overtime and added a free throw to lift the Seattle Supersonics to a 121-116 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

India to play in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, March 9, (Reuters): India have agreed to play their Davis Cup world group relegation tennis playoff in Tel Aviv from April 7-9 after accepting assurances about security from the Israel Tennis Federation Association, association chairman David Harnik said yesterday.

A month ago the All India Tennis Association told the International Tennis Federation they were apprehensive about playing in Israel because of unrest in the Israeli-occupied territories in which at least 88 Palestinians have been killed in three months.

The international group rejected a request to switch the match to a neutral venue.

SFI fight back to hold Magcobar

SFI and Magcobar played to a 11-11 draw in a Kuwait Little League game earlier this week with the match a real struggle for both the sides, all the way through the 6th innings.

Magcobar took the lead in the 1st inning with 7 to 0 and maintained that lead to the 4th inning with a score of 11, which was the last time they scored for the rest of the game, to SFI's 10 points.

Tied

In the 5th inning both teams were notable to bring any players across the home plate, by having strong teamwork in the outfield. In the 6th and last inning SFI was able to score 1 run and held Magcobar to no runs, to draw the game.

In the second game there was a victory for Computhink over SFB. In the 1st inning both teams

were tied at 3 to 3, but in the 2nd inning SFB came out ahead with another 3 runs making the score 6 to 4 in their favour. There was a turnaround in the last 2 innings for Computhink who scored 8 runs and held SFB to 2 runs. Final score Computhink 12 and SFB 8.

Results

Magcobar 11: Makoto Imai (2), Shunsaku Ito (2), Aziz Al Arfaj (2 includes a HR), Samer Koubaissi (1), Tarek Abou Amin (1), Jun Yoshimura (1), Rithuzo Shimizu (1), Matthew Berchfield (1).

SFI 11: Thari Ibrahim (3), Luis Alvarez (3), Athena Hoffman (1), Matthew Symon (1), Vincent Polk (1), Said Jamshidi (1), Shaun (1).

Ambassadors 7: Cory Fox (2), Talal Navarro (1), Hisham

Navarro (1), Erik Fox (1), Keita Miyasaka (1), Jihad Sakhlleh (1), Getty 3: Ahmed Mokhtar (1), Qussai Othman (1), Denny Stucker (1).

UAS 19: Steve Georgopolis (2), Majeed Jamshedi (2 includes a HR), Mohammed Shaaban (2), Tarek Hankir (2), Mahmoud Mokhtar (1), Amir Gul (1), George Georgopolis (1), David Gagner (HR), Mishaal Al Kabbaz (1), Tarek Al Shamiri (1), Walid Khalil (1), Jordan van Rye (1), Kareem Abu Zeid (1), Basal Al Shamiri (1), Richard Fuller (1).

BTC 7: Clifford, Radeepan, Chucky, Ravi, Sahar, Jamal and Donna, each player scored a run each.

AlJulaiah 22: Bibi Ibrahim (3), Khalifa Missind (3), Nawaf Abu Rabe (3), Haitham Rajab (3)

includes a HR), Patrick Khalis (3), Gibran Hamdan (2), Tarek Hamdan (2), Nora Abdul Aziz (2), Mohammed Ahmed (1).

M&M's 21: Lucas Runte (3), Andrew Colwell (2), Ryan Fox (2), Mahmoud Rasheed (2), Ahmed Fathallah (2), Ridha Behbehani (2), Ussamah Al Arfaj (2) — Ziad Sakhlleh, Al Arfaj, Jacob Hashim, Rahman Al Salem, Sami Behbehani, and Salim Al Fulajis scored a run each.

Computhink 12: Mohammed Khan (3), Bryan Cox (2), Scott Fortes (2 includes a HR), Vincent Vannes (1), Paul Colburne (1), Alan Jones (1), Patrick (1), Tony (1).

SFB 8: Shamlan Khajab (2), Jason Zeplin (2), Shehab Al Badou (1), Patrick O'Connor (1), Ziad Waked (1), Joey Stephenson (1).

Cuban star to retire from boxing

HAVANA, March 9, (Reuters): Teofilo Stevenson, who won the Olympic heavyweight boxing title three times, will retire formally in June, it was announced here.

Stevenson, who will turn 36 on March 20, was the only man, besides Hungary's László Papp, to have won three consecutive Olympic gold medals in boxing, at the 1972, '76 and '80 Games.

The Cuban, also a triple world amateur champion from 1974 to 1986, was denied a possible fourth Olympic triumph at the 1984 Los Angeles Games because of a Soviet-led boycott.

Stevenson, who rejected \$1 million to turn professional and fight Muhammad Ali, had gone into semi-retirement since his last competitive fight in May 1986 when he captured his third world title in Reno, Nevada.

Gloves

Cuba's official National News Agency (AIN) said Stevenson would symbolically hang up his gloves during an international tournament in his hometown of Las Tunas, in eastern Cuba, from June 25-July 3.

Stevenson said in a recent interview that the main regret of a career spanning two decades, during which he fought more than 250 bouts and was beaten fewer than 20 times, was not having fought Ali.

He has recently been in the news for his involvement in a traffic accident last year, in which a motorcyclist was killed. He was acquitted at the subsequent trial and now works as a coach in eastern Granma province.

Lindqvist wins giant slalom

HAKUBA, Japan, March 9, (UPI): Niklas Lindqvist of Sweden came from behind to win the men's giant slalom in the opening competition of the FIS Far East Cup Ski Japan series today.

Lindqvist clocked 1:12.05 in the first run and 1:18.27 in the second run for a total time of 2:30.32 over the 1,249-metre course at the Happono 2 Panorama course north of Tokyo.

Japanese Tetsuya Okabe, who set the pace in the first run with the best time of 1:11.68, trailed the winner with 1:18.80 in the second run and finished in second place with a total time of 2:30.58.



Debi Thomas (left), who won the bronze medal in the ladies figure skating event at the Winter Olympics recently, is praised by President Reagan and applauded by her teammates, Diana Golden (centre) — gold medalist in the handicapped ski event, and Bonnie Blair — gold medalist and holder of the world record in the 500-metre speed skating event, during a ceremony in honour of the US Olympic team at the White House on Tuesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

SPORTS

Australia may send team to Zimbabwe

SYDNEY, March 9, (Reuters): The Australian Cricket Board is likely to accept an invitation to send a touring team to Zimbabwe in April as a replacement for the tour of Sri Lanka cancelled last month.

"It's fairly likely we will accept. I can see us asking the Australian selectors to pick a team shortly," said David Richards, the board's chief executive today.

The board will make a decision on the tour, provisionally set for April 7-28, at a meeting in Adelaide on Friday.

The Zimbabwe team is not of Test standard and the tour is likely to consist of three-day games and one-day internationals instead of full four-day matches.

The selectors would probably use the tour to try out several up-and-coming players ahead of the full tour of Pakistan in September, Richards told journalists.

The Sri Lankan tour was cancelled because of the island's racial strife and fears for the players' safety.

The board's Friday meeting will also discuss progress on a proposal to host with New Zealand the 1991 one-day World Cup.

Aborigines win right to play at Lords

LONDON, March 9, (AP): A team of touring Aborigine cricketers has won the right to play a match at Lord's, headquarters of the sport worldwide — but only after the intervention of Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

The Aboriginal Cricket Association's original request to play the Marylebone Cricket Club in a one-day game at the ground on June 28 was turned down because of fixture congestion. Instead, the match was switched to an adjacent nursery pitch.

But the MCC, custodians of the sport in Britain, said today it had decided to allow the tourists to play at Lord's in what will be their final appearance in a 28-match tour.

"We're going this as a goodwill gesture," MCC secretary Col John Stephenson said. "We had a special plea from Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and as it's the country's Bicentenary, we have decided to overturn our decision."

The tour marks the first by an Aborigine team since 1868 when 47 matches were played, including one at Lord's.

The squad arrives on May 11.

Zico criticises violent play in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 9, (Reuters): Brazilian soccer star Zico, whose latest injury has put him out of action for a month, said if he were a fan he would not watch matches in Brazil.

Zico, 35, who received an ankle injury after being tackled from behind in a League match on Sunday, said officials should protect the good players "or else the future of Brazilian football will be grey."

"If I were a fan I would avoid going to football matches in Brazil," he said. "It is fun going to a game where all you see are classless players hitting the good players without mercy."

Zico, who played in the final tournaments of the last three World Cups, has had three operations on his knees during a playing career marked by injury.

Badar takes five wickets for 26

Punjab overcome Bright Stars

PUNJAB Cricket Club (Fahaleh) outlasted Bright Stars in a thrilling one-day cricket match for a one-wicket victory in the Capri Trophy at the Sanaya ground earlier this week.

After winning the toss, Bright Stars opted to make the first use of the wicket. The openers put on 23 before Aslam was out and soon after Arun followed him to the pavilion. Both the wickets were claimed by Asghar.

Collapse
Khalid tried to turn the tide but failed to master Maqsood's bowling and was out for 17. The introduction of the spin bowlers saw the collapse of the Bright Stars batting line-up.

Badar Munir was in devastating form and took five wickets for only 26 runs. Jamil, the off-spinner, bowled Reuben for 3

FAIRBROTHER AND CAPEL SLAM KIWI BOWLERS

England edge New Zealand in one-day opener

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, March 9, (Reuters): A 78-run fifth wicket partnership took England to a five-wicket win in the first of four one-day internationals against New Zealand today.

Neil Fairbrother hit the winning runs in the exciting match with a half-century and four balls to spare.

England had looked to be in some trouble when captain Mike Gatting was caught at the mid-wicket boundary for 42 by Chris Kugeleja off part-timer Ken Rutherford's bowling. The score then was 114 for four in the 29th over.

But Fairbrother's partnership with David Capel swung the match England's way. Both players gave the bowlers plenty of opportunities but they rode their luck and hit some good attacking strokes.

Touched

Openers Martyn Moxon and Chris Broad got England started, but then Moxon, on six with the score at 28, touched one to wicket-keeper Ian Smith of Ewen Chatfield.

Tim Robinson was looking good, timing the ball beautifully, until he played across one to be lbw to Martin Snedden for 17.

Then Broad on 33, who had been playing comfortably, was brilliantly run out by a direct hit from a Martin Crowe throw.

Gatting stroked the ball from the moment he came to the crease, scoring at better than a run a ball. A wide leg-side ball from Rutherford disappointedly put him out.



Fairbrother hammers a New Zealand bowler. (Reuters wirephoto)

New Zealand looked one bowler short. Ewen Chatfield bowled superbly, conceding just 15 runs off his 10 overs and taking two wickets, but the other bowlers played the ball wide.

Captain John Wright with a sparkling 70 led New Zealand to 204 all out in the fifth over in their innings but they had banked on a higher total.

On a slightly variable pitch, Wright won the toss, decided to bat and got New Zealand off to a cracking start.

But after he was out, with the score at 140 for four in the 33rd over, the innings lost direction.

He went when Martyn Moxon, running away from the



Wright sends the ball towards the boundary. (Reuters wirephoto)

wicket, took a spectacular one-handed diving catch off Neal Radford's bowl.

None of the other New Zealand batsmen properly established themselves although there were useful contributions from newcomer Chris Kugeleja, 34, and Martin Crowe, in top form, whacked

13 off a Capel over but played around one from Paul Jarvis and was bowled for 18.

Jarvis and Phillip Defreitas both bowled well, getting some movement and life from the pitch. Defreitas finished with two for 26 from his ten overs.

Embury, who was called on by Gatting to bowl at the death of

the innings, picked up the final three wickets as the batsmen slogged erratically. He ended with the fine figures of four for 39 and the Man of the Match Award.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND	
J. Wright c Moxon b Radford	70
R. Reid c Broad b Defreitas	18
M. Crowe b Jarvis	18
M. Gattling c Capel b Embury	28
K. Rutherford c Capel b Capel	13
C. Kugeleja c Gatting b Defreitas	34
J. Bracey c Moxon b Defreitas	7
I. Smith b Embury	0
M. Snedden b Embury	0
W. Watson not out	0
E. Chatfield c French b Embury	0
Extras (lb-13 w-5 nb-1)	19
Total	204

Overs: 49.4
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-59, 3-131, 4-140, 5-157, 6-188, 7-190, 8-204, 9-204.

Bowling: Defreitas 10-1-26-2 (nb-1), Radford 10-0-47-1 (w-3), Capel 10-1-45-1 (w-2), Jarvis 10-2-34-1, Embury 9-4-39-4.

ENGLAND
M. Moxon c Smith b Chatfield 6
C. Broad run out 33
T. Robinson lbw Snedden 17
M. Gatting c Kugeleja b Rutherford 42
N. Fairbrother not out 59
D. Capel c Smith b Chatfield 22

Extras (lb-6 w-2 nb-1) 9
Total for five wickets: 207
Overs: 49.2
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-53, 3-68, 4-114, 5-192.

Did not bat: B. French, P. Defreitas, P. Jarvis, N. Chatfield.
Bowling: Watson 10-2-46-9 (nb-1), Chatfield 10-2-15-2, Kugeleja 7-0-31-0, Snedden 10-1-46-1, Bracey 7-0-42-0 (w-1), Rutherford 5-0-21-1 (w-1).

Marshall out of one-day games

Pakistanis lose quick wickets

KINGSTON, March 9, (Reuters): Pakistan's opening tour match against the West Indies Cricket Board President's XI appears headed for an exciting finish on the final day today.

Pakistan lost quick wickets in the final session on the third day and reached 106 for four by the close, 127 ahead.

Weakness

Medium pacer Winston Benjamin exploited the apparent weakness of the Pakistani batsmen against the short ball by dismissing opener Aamir Malik and Salim Jaffer who parried lifting deliveries to Roger Harper in the gully.

Harper's offspin then accounted for Rameez Raja (40) and Ejaz Ahmed in successive balls to leave the visitors on 76 for four.

Javed Miandad and Imran Khan survived an uncomfortable half-hour playing unevenly on a pitch taking a little turn.

Earlier left arm and medium pacer Salim Jaffer took six for 67 as Pakistan dismissed the President's XI for 311, to gain a first innings lead of 21.

Jaffer gained his wickets by bowling a tight length and line

against impatient batsmen who were undone by balls keeping low.

But it was Imran who caught the eye. Playing his first match after a three-month retirement, he must have encouraged his teammates ahead of Saturday's first one-day international against the West Indies.

Imran looked short of work on Monday but looked like approaching something near his best in taking two wickets for 15 runs in seven overs yesterday.

The Pakistan captain removed Keith Arthurton and Theiston Payne in three balls.

Arthurton was trapped leg before after a patient 41 in 185 minutes and Payne, who survived a confident leg before appeal first ball, touched the next to wicket-keeper Salim Yusuf.

Jaffer then cleaned up the tail, picking up the last four wickets cheaply.

Aamir opened the Pakistan second innings with Rameez in the absence of Mudassar Nazar who has not taken the field since retiring hurt in the second over of the match.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings 332 for nine declared (Salim Malik 86, Javed Miandad 63, Naved Anjum 48, C. Hooper four for 72).

PRESIDENT'S XI first innings (overnight 208 for four)
P. Simmons b Naved Anjum 39
W. Lewis c Aamir Malik b Salim Jaffer 47

C. Best c Javed Miandad b Salim Jaffer 13
K. Arthurton lbw b Imran 41
C. Hooper lbw Naved Anjum 67

T. Gray lbw b Salim Jaffer 67
T. Payne c Yusuf b Imran 30
R. Harper b Salim Jaffer 30

D. Williams lbw Salim Jaffer 6
W. Benjamin b Salim Jaffer 18
I. Bishop not out 30

Extras (b-5, lb-15, nb-10) 30
Total (for five wickets) 311
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-74, 3-100, 4-114, 5-208, 6-232, 7-232, 8-260, 9-278.

Bowling: Imran Khan 20-1-64-2 (2nb), Salim Jaffer 18-2-47-6 (2nb), Naved Anjum 15-1-53-2 (4nb), Javed Miandad not out 5, Ejaz Ahmed lbw Harper 0, Imran Khan not out 13, Extras (lb-3 nb-4) 7, Total (for four wickets) 106

Fall of wickets: 1-56, 2-62, 3-76, 4-76, 5-164, 6-164, 7-164, 8-164, 9-164.

Meanwhile, West Indies fast bowler Malcolm Marshall will be unavailable for the first four of the five one-day cricket internationals against Pakistan because of a knee injury, West Indies Cricket Board of control secretary Steve Camacho said yesterday.

Marshall was named on Monday in a 13-member squad for the first international in Jamaica on Saturday and the second in Antigua on March 15.

Camacho said his place would be taken by Trinidadian Tony Gray.

The match was finely balanced at lunch on the fourth and final day, today. Resuming at 106 for four, Pakistan were 207 for six at the interval, a lead of 228. Javed Miandad kept the innings together on a turning pitch with a characteristically patient 61 not out made in 195 minutes and including just one four.

PAKISTAN 2nd innings
Rameez Raja c Best b Harper 40
Aamir Malik c Harper b Benjamin 21
Salim Malik c Harper b Benjamin 5
Javed Miandad not out 20
Ejaz Ahmed lbw Harper 0
Imran Khan not out 13
Extras (lb-3 nb-4) 7
Total (for four wickets) 106

LATE NEWS

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Archery

Zicarelli and Tshering triumph

THE Kuwait Archery Federation held its eleventh competition of the season on Friday with a strong French contingent participating. The high wind prevented the archers from breaking any records, but the standard reached by newcomers to the sport was excellent.

The senior men and women shot 144 arrows at four distances: 90m, 70m, 50m and 30 metres. For the first time these distances were divided over a period of two days which enable the archers to rest. This is the normal Olympic procedure.

The A Division was once again dominated by Italian Angelo Zicarelli with American Phil Hall coming second. The women's A Division went to Carolyn Tshering.

Excellent
In the B Division newcomer to the sport Hani Badr shot an excellent 473 to come first. Two more newcomers to the sport, both from France, Francois Ducro and Remi Bousquet came second and third respectively.

In the C Division France was again well represented with Andre Coq taking first place for men and Sonia Bousquet first for the women. Jerry Esmail came second.

The prizes were presented by Mohammed M. Al Shaheen, managing director of the Hunting & Equestrian Club. Anyone wanting to try archery should contact 4739199 ext 48/31.

Maurice Evans resigns as Oxford manager

LONDON, March 9, (Reuters): Maurice Evans resigned yesterday as team manager of struggling English First Division soccer club Oxford United.

Evans, who guided Oxford to their greatest success when they won the English League Cup in 1986, agreed to remain in charge as "caretaker" until his successor is appointed.

Become

He will then become the club's general manager and take charge of scouting and youth development.

His resignation followed a dismal run. Oxford have failed to win a First Division match since November 7 and are in danger of relegation.

Evans, who became Oxford manager reluctantly three years ago, said: "I have been thinking about it for some time. I saw the

chairman Kevin Maxwell last night and told him I wanted to stand down.

"He agreed, but has asked me to continue as caretaker manager ... he does not want me to leave Oxford and has offered me the post of general manager next season. I have accepted it."

Widely respected as one of the old-fashioned gentlemen of English soccer, Evans played for Reading for 12 years and had management experience with Shrewsbury and Reading before joining Oxford.

Results

Results of matches played last night	
Scottish Premier Division	
Motherwell	0 Hearts
English Division Two	
Barnsley	2 Bournemouth
Birmingham	0 West Brom
Sheff Wed	0 Manchester C
English Division Three	
Grimsby	2 Rotherham
Scottish Division Two	
Brechin	0 Montrose



Allofs likely to miss one W. Berlin tourney match

MUNICH, West Germany, March 9, (Reuters): West German soccer captain Klaus Allofs said yesterday he was likely to miss at least one match for his country during the West Berlin four-nation tournament because of club commitments.

Allofs said he would probably play in West Germany's opening match against Sweden on March 31 when he would miss a Cup tie for his French club Marseilles.

But he said he would probably return to France for a League match for Marseilles, who are

fourth in the French First Division, eight points behind leaders Monaco.

"I hope a compromise will be found to the satisfaction of both parties," said the experienced forward who may be missing if West Germany succeed in reaching the tournament final.

The tournament is being contested by West Germany, Sweden, the Soviet Union and Argentina and is an important part of West Germany's build-up to the European championship finals which they are hosting in June.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Samajam Trophy

THE quarterfinals of the Kuwait Malayalee Samajam Trophy soccer tournament, sponsored by the Sana Household and organised by Kuwait Malayalee Samajam, will be held tomorrow at the Fahaleh ground, behind the cinema theatre. In the first match Vandana Sports meet Royal Sporting at 6.30 am. In the other games New Goa face D'Assisi Boys at 8.00 am and Konkani XI meet Rising Boys at 9.30 am.

Soccer tourney

TRIVIM CENTRE, Kuwait, will hold a 7-a-side football tournament on Friday, March 25, at the Sour grounds. The draw for the tournament will be held on the same day at 6.30 am and the games will start at 7.00 am. For further details contact D'Mello 2434634/2420439 and Almeida 4813740.

Cricket match

BROTHER'S Sporting Club meet Evergreen in the final of the India Tea Board Trophy, organised by the Gulf Cricket League, at the New ground (EPI) tomorrow at 9.00 am. The umpires will be Rangers Cricket Club. Prize distribution will be held on the same day.

S. Arabia win

HOSTS Saudi Arabia beat Bahrain 1-0 in a 9th Gulf Football Tournament match yesterday. The only goal of the match was scored in the 89th minute of the game through Majed Abdullah. Saudi Arabia now lead the standings with five points from three matches after winning two of their games and drawing the third.

W. German soccer

BONN, March 9, (Reuters): Results of two quarterfinal matches of the West German National Soccer Cup yesterday: Eintracht Frankfurt 4 Bayer Uerdingen 2, Bochum 4 Fortuna Cologne 1.

First Division result: Bayer Leverkusen 2 Borussia Moenchengladbach 1.

Top skier

MORA, Sweden, March 9, (UPI): Harry Lindborn, a 79-year-old who skied his 30th straight 89 kilometre Vasaloppet cross-country ski race Sunday, was chosen "The 1988 Vasaloppet Veteran." Lindborn joined some 9,000 skiers across the finish line in the world's biggest cross-country race. He covered the 89 km in less than 11 hours and beat a 30-odd younger competitors.

Australia triumph

ADELAIDE, Australia, March 9, (Reuters): Australia beat Taiwan 3-2 (halftime 1-1) in an Oceania group qualifying match for the Olympic tournament today. Scorers: Australia - Tobin, Crino, Patikas; Taiwan - Kuo-Ming Wu, I-Shin Chien.

Verona striker

GENEVA, March 9, (Reuters): The European Football Union (UEFA) has banned Italian club Verona's Danish striker Preben Elkjaer for one match because of incidents during a UEFA Cup tie last Wednesday.

Iditarod race

ROHN, Alaska, March 9, (AP): Joe Redington took the lead of the 1,500-mile Iditarod trail sled dog race yesterday as he and Herbie Nayokpak drove past other mushers who had packed down a smooth, fast trail.

Curling event

STOCKHOLM, March 9, (UPI): Vasteras of Sweden will arrange the 1990 World Curling Championships to coincide with the city's millennium anniversary, the International Curling Association decided yesterday.

Camel race to be held on March 23

A CAMEL race will be held on March 23, under the patronage of HH the Amir, with cash-prizes donated by the Amir totalling KD50,000.

Major-General Abdul Latif Al Thuwaini, the secretary of Kuwait's Hunting and Equestrian Club, said the 180-kilometre race will start at Al Hafer, Saudi Arabia, and finish at the old Arafat centre in Kuwait.

Receive
The first prize winner of the race, which is open to all GCC citizens, will receive KD7,000, the second KD6,500 and the third KD6,000.

A rest stop supplied with medical and food services will be set up midway through the race where camels will be required to rest for at least six hours.

Registration is open upto March 20.

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